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Kin of Mark Jimenez's wife hit police inaction

3 Pinays finish Everest traverse, make history

By Alexis Pupa

Toss of coin breaks tie for town council seat

By Desiree Cabico

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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MIRACLE IN PAMPANGA

Fr. Ed wins by slimmest of margins vs Pineda, Lapid

By Tonnie Cruz
Inquirer Central Luzon

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Winning by the slimmest of margins, Fr. Eddie Panlilio became the first Catholic priest in the country to be elected to public office in what is being touted as a "people-powered" unprecedented run for governor of Pampanga.

"It's a miracle, of course. And we worked hard for it. If (God) was of course, it's time to change, to serve His people, especially the poor," said the 59-year-old priest.

"Welcome to a new era in Pampanga politics," said Panlilio who got a total of 229,704 votes in the city-counted vote, amassing his lead of only 1,347 votes.

The decisive votes that clinched his victory came from Magalang, a predominantly Catholic town, where 11,000 more votes went to him.

Panlilio's major rivals were Lilia Pine-

►A4 to A6

THE FIRST CATHOLIC PRIEST in the country to be elected to public office, Fr. Ed Panlilio (unopposed at right) is proclaimed winner in San Fernando, Pampanga, as Pedia eight of his opponents, Lilia Pineda (left) by what is now being termed as a "people-powered" unprecedented win.

Still 8-2-2 for GO in Comelec count

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.,
Nikko Dizon and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE OPPOSITE OPPOSITION CONTINUED to dominate the contested race, according to latest results from the ongoing canvassing of the Commission on Elections as of last night.

Eight GO candidates, two Team Unity candidates and two independent candidates were in the Magic 12 as of 10:00 p.m.

Loren Legarda (LDP) was still No. 1 with 1,374,307 votes.

Also on the top ranks last night were Gregorio Honasan (independent), who climbed from the 13th slot to 9th and reclaimed his seat, and Juan Ponce Enrile (LDP) from 12th to 8th.

On the other hand, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (GO) slid to 11th while Joker Arroyo (TEAM Unity) from 9th to 12th place.

Francis Escudero (GO) maintained his second spot with 1,306,402 votes, followed by fellow GO candidates Pimentel, Loren with 1,176,002 and Manuel Villar with 1,139,2[illegible].

Francis Pangilinan (independent) was also on the top ranks last night with 1,050,329 votes, followed by Bongbong Aquino III (GO) with 990,117 and also Juan Ponce Enrile (GO) with 962,134.

Honasan climbed to 8th with 934,454 votes as votes from Quezon, Quirino, Bicol and Central Luzon were canvassed.

Talkshow mogul vs 90s pinup waif, 845,106 votes.

Still at 10th place was Edgardo Angara (TE) with 832,403 votes.

Rounding out the 12th place with 792,284 votes while Arroyo fell to the

►A4 to A6

Namfrel men barred from Maguindanao canvassing

By Cathy C. Yabusin
and Norman Bordadora

VOLUNTEERS OF THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) have confirmed that elections did take place in Maguindanao, but they are clueless as to whether the results have been tabulated or not of the votes cast on May 14 that have remained at sea.

This was disclosed yesterday by Namfrel chair Edmund Jo, who said all volunteers doing monitoring work for the group had finally been accounted for, following similar fears that they might not be safe.

Jo said chapter coordinators in Maguindanao reported that no one

►A4 to A6

Torched school to be named after teacher

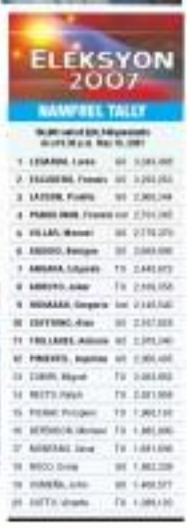
By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Alexis Pupa

TODAY, BRENDAN—FOR MARION THE ultimate sacrifice to defend the ballot, teacher Nelia Benang will be remembered for a very long time—for Bongbong and Ebongayan School where the deed will be immortalized for all to recall.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who visited this town yesterday to comfort voters like families of Benang and poll watcher Leticia Ramos, has given the Philippine

TORCHED ►A6

HONORS FROM ONE: President Arroyo awards in Tayas, Kalinga-Apayao where poll watchers Nelia Benang and Leticia Ramos died. At the chapel where Nelia's remains lie, the teaches cut in her children Bernadette, 14, Guillerjo, 11, and Michelle, 20.



RP stocks surge to highest level in 80 years

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

STOCK PRICES SURGED YESTERDAY to their highest level in 80 years, buoyed by heavy foreign-buying, good economic indicators and higher corporate earnings, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index closed Friday at 3,449.18, its highest finish since stock market trading began in the Philippines in 1927. The index's previous historic high was 3,447.03 set on Feb. 3, 1997, days before the Asian financial crisis.

Today's and heavy foreign buying was spurred by an investor roadshow in Manila conducted early this week by global financial services giant JP Morgan for foreign fund managers.

"The JP Morgan conference boosted confidence and possibly translated into action. The buying was coming from JP Morgan," said Joseph Bonus, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

Total foreign buying reached P2.75 billion yesterday as against total foreign selling at P1.676 billion. This translates to net foreign buying of roughly P1.074 billion.

Market sentiment was buoyed by good economic indicators and corporate results. Also, obvious evidences economic are out of the way," said Gonzalo Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo also remarks.

"The vibrancy of Philippine democracy is matched by the strongness of

STOCKS ►A16

A SINGLE GESTURE SAYS IT ALL. The Philippine Stock Exchange closes Friday at its highest finish since a stock market trading began here in 1927.

Wolfowitz quits, ending global turmoil at WB

WASHINGTON—PAUL D. WOLFOWITZ, trailing a burst over favoritism that blew up into a global fight over American leadership, announced his resignation as president of the World Bank. Wolfowitz's announcement came after the bank's board accepted his claim that his relationship with his girlfriend was made in good faith.

The decision came hour after a bank investigation committee concluded that he had violated his contract by breaking ethical and governance rules in arranging the generous pay and promo-

WOLFOWITZ ►A10

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2: 20 24 | 2 3 3 8
Mon-Sat 2D DRAW: 1 7 7 | 0 4 4
MEGALOTTO 6/45: 7 12 13 18 22 32
P67,878,167.40

WEATHER FORECAST

Kin of MJ's wife hit police inaction

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SISTER OF CAROL Jimenez, estranged wife of former Rep. Benjie Jimenez, reported the police for their slow action in implementing a court order to rescue Carol, who was kidnapped Wednesday and allegedly being held in a drug rehabilitation center in Parañaque City.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Rose Fitzsimons, sister of Carol, said they were baffled with the police's refusal to locate Carol despite the order of Muntinlupa rehabilitation center issued by Assistant's since, Irene Crespo.

A court order from the Taguig City Regional Trial Court ordered on Wednesday the Makati Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to "rescue" Geraldine Silverstre.

Fitzsimons said members of the Makati SWAT team tried to take Carol from the facility that same day but, after a while they pulled out.

"A certain general told them they should pull out," she said.

Fitzsimons said that Carol was being held against her will inside the center in the city after she was kidnapped by eight men from the Tuscany condominium in Makati City on Wednesday morning.

She said friends could have dropped her earlier, who was groomed a temporary restraining order against her husband who has physically and mentally abused her since the '70s.

Fitzsimons said they were afraid that Jimenez, who served as "House adviser" to deposed President Joseph Estrada and became a Manila representative, could have used his influence on police and military officers to hinder Carol's release.

"He's still well-connected, to the military," Fitzsimons said, adding that Jimenez had pledged money and boasting in his police and the armed Forces.

She also said Carol was involved in a business deal Jimenez's lawyers presented a document to the police showing he had filed a petition in a Makati court to confine Carol in a rehabilitation center due to alcohol and drug addiction.

Fitzsimons said that Carol was never a drug addict and the petition was bogus. "We checked, there was no petition."

Meanwhile, the Makati City police said they were trying to do everything they can to rescue Carol.

Boy killed, 30 hurt in Cotabato bombing

By Edwin G. Fernandez and Cirelle C. Selmo, Inquirer Mindanao, Christine D. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

COTABATO CITY—A POWERFUL BOMB RIPPED through a busy bus terminal here yesterday morning, killing a 5-year-old boy and wounding at least 30 other people, police and hospital officials said.

The bomb, an improvised explosive device believed set off in 10-liter water thrift, was placed in a box and left beside a van towards the Ginoog Bus Terminal along Don Rufino Alonzo Avenue, investigators said.

When it went off at around 21:05 HRS, it wrecked havoc on people walking about the terminal and on the street and cars lined up for in from 3 kilometers away.

"It was a very loud explosion; I immediately crouched under the table," a woman who canvassed reporters told Radio DXRD here.

Nobody among us noticed the box. There were reports that a woman carried it inside the terminal and then left, but almost all the people in the terminal carry bags and boxes. We really don't know," she said.

Police investigators are also considering the possibility that it could have been done by extremists.

Initial findings indicate that it might be remotely-related as the same bus company was similarly attacked last May 14," Rasmin said.

Jane Ahan, Pinoza Bus terminal manager, said that he had been informed by the police assistant before the blast that they had received a phone call warning about a bomb planted inside the terminal.

He said that consequently using a public address system, he informed the people inside the terminal to be more careful and report any suspicious-looking or unclaimed items to the security personnel. However, with only a few hours after the bomb detonated minutes later.

"We're still investigating the motive and identities of the bombers. We're not ruling out a terror attack although the Moros that company has been receiving "type of extortionate in the past," said Chief Superintendent Eduardo Soriano Jr., the regional police chief.

Soriano said post-blast investigators are also looking at

Season's 1st storm hardly felt

RP is top source of UN peacekeepers–Davide

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW THE TOP CONtributor of individual police officers to United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Philippine Mission to the United Nations reported yesterday.

Ambassador Alberto Encinas, the Philippines' permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, said that the Philippines emerged last week as the main provider of police officers with 200 individual officers from the Philippine National Police (PNP) deployed in seven UN peacekeeping missions around the world.

He cited statistics from the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) as the basis for his statement.

"The Filipino police peacekeeper is doing our country proud by helping restore peace and reestablishment in places as near as Timor Leste and as far as Sudan," Encinas said in his report to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Aside from the Philippines, others on the list of the top 10 contributors of civilian police officers are the United States (204); Turkey (227); Germany (203); Cameroon (167); Niger (160); France (159); Ghana (144); Zimbabwe (141); and Burkina Faso (120).

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Miracle in Pampanga

From page A1

da, an incumbent provincial board member, who got 218,338 votes, and reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid who received 218,075 votes.

Provincial prosecutor Jesus Manuzing was midway into announcing the climber score when Perlito's supporters, who filled the bleachers of the Rose T. Golez Convention Center where the provincial canvassing was held, threw up their hands in joy.

They were bused by the followers of Pineda who class began walking out of the convention center.

Perlito's followers lapsed into silence, eagerly awaiting the board's proclamation.

The other towns that delivered the winning votes for Perlito were the City of San Fernando and Congon, Minalin, Sto. Tomas and Sta. Rita towns.

Priest from Minalin

Perlito, who comes from Minalin, has spent 26 years in the priesthood. He took a leave from his priestly duties on March 25, heeding the clamor of the province's Catholic laity to run as the alternative candidate to the two strongest candidates—Lapid and Pineda—who were both known by corruption and illegal gambling issues.

Perlito admitted it was a difficult battle, having no money or even machinery. He relied on a cagging army of volunteers who marched on some 30,000, including 10 lawyers led by the country's top three election counsels.

Their counter way at campaigning, their vigilance on Election Day and the dirge that followed were largely behind his victory, he said.

Volunteers for Perlito's guarded the ballots, sleeping at the town halls to avert any alteration of the election returns until certificates of canvass.

'Priest is king'

According to an old man, one of Perlito's supporters, he had made true a Kapampangan adage: Ing pare yang Bari (The priest is king).

In order to the saved influence that a man of the cloth has over his flock.

Perlito became Pampanga's 28th governor since 1901.

His followers said they would call him "Nanang Gov."

"Nanang" is a Kapampangan term of endearment for priest. His Bella parishioners call Perlito "Nanang Bil."

Perlito said he would exercise a new kind of leadership that is consultative, participative, transparent and God-centered.

Good government

"The people deserve a good and honest government," he has said.

He noted that those who voted for him previously expressed this through the power of their votes.

He said he hoped the providential hand of God would be with him during his term as governor.

Earlier, the Philippine National Police had to deploy 20 additional troops at the convention center to avert any confrontation between the supporters of Perlito and Pineda.

This brought to 26 the number of police units inside the center, according to Senior Supt. Bebit Imigan.

At least 12 other members of the Provincial Mobile Group maintained peace outside the center.

Commission on Elections provincial supervisor Tonia Landayo requested for more troops when the situation inside the center became tense as the provincial canvassing board began reading the election results from the capital city and three towns.

Heckling vs praying

Results from the City of San Fernando brought 37,291 additional votes for Perlito, narrowing down the lead of Pineda by 3,307.

Some 2,000 Pineda supporters who were sitting on the far right side of the bleachers flapped wildly or heckled those on the other side whenever the votes of their candidate were read.

Perlito's supporters, most of whom had slept at the center to guard the ballot boxes and the election documents, ignored the heckling.

During the two-hour break that the board of canvassers called at 2 p.m., Perlito supporters envied the Rosary and sang prayer hymns.

Pineda's supporters responded with wild clapping.

'Digs' back to Congress a changed man

THE GOOD FIGHTS

THERE'S NO SHUTTING UP FOR THE FORMER spokesperson of ousted President Joseph Estrada. If he had in the counting continues, Dadagen "Kit Shut Up" Dilangalen will be back in the halls of Congress.

Only this time, the man who flared up at a note from the gallery telling him to shut up during the presidential election canvassing in 2004, is something of a changed man.

Dilangalen, who ran under Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, says he is not in client to go along with the opposition's agenda to revive an impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I don't see any good and convincing reason to impeach her. It will not succeed. The country must move forward. Impeachment will only result in a clamor that is one monthly pending economy. We are all losers in the end," he said.

But Dilangalen denied instructions that he had sold out to the administration.

"I live by my principles. I don't even know the meaning of the concessions offered by the administration," he said.

Dilangalen, representing the defeated Maguindanao's lone district which is now Shariff Kabunsuan and Cotabato City, said losing against his rival Lakas-CMD bet Bai Sandra Sema. "It was even in my wildest dreams," he said by 18,000 votes.

He, still, claims Sema representative Bai Sandra Sinsuat, is lagging by a huge margin in the mayoral race for Cotabato City against the incumbent Muslimin Sema.

In Dalangan, the Comelec board of canvassers rejected a petition of the lawyer of Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos for Santos to be proclaimed winner in the Batangas gubernatorial race against reelectionist Gov. Armando Sanchez.

Lawyer Antonio Leong insisted that Santos should be proclaimed winner since based on their party's count, the remaining votes would no longer affect the election results.

The board however declined, stating the canvassing of votes from Tanauan City and Balayan town should be finished.

The official Comelec tally as of 3 p.m. yesterday showed Santos, the actress-turned-politician, leading with 453,086 votes, followed by Sanchez 315,907, retired general Renato Samson 31,805 and Marcos Manchan, 2,509.

Leong said that the remaining votes from Balayan and Tanauan City would not exceed 115,000 while Santos' lead was more than three times several votes.

The canvassed results showed that Santos had won in all but six of the 24 towns of the province.

Santos' brother-in-law Gov. Ricky Recto, the United Opposition (UNO) candidate for the fourth congressional district of Batangas, lost to Wash Lunadec Mendoza, son of Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The Comelec has proclaimed Mendoza, a Nationalist People's Coalition bet, the winner with a total of 97,216 winning votes, followed by Recto, 90,384 and Nicolo, 23,198.

The Batangas provincial Comelec has proclaimed reelectionist Rep. Eileen Ermita-Buhain, daughter of Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita, winner in the congressional race for the Batangas province's first district.

The Commission on Elections yesterday proclaimed Vice Gov. Victor Tupas the winner in the gubernatorial race in Cavite. He will replace the father, Gov. Jesse Tupas, who was also proclaimed winner in the province's second congressional district fight.

The Comelec junked the petition of the lawyers of former Tubas Rep. Jose "Boying" Calalangan Jr., to defer the proclamation, saying "there was no pre-proclamation controversy."

Final results of the provincial canvassing of votes for the gubernatorial post showed Tupas bagging 6, by more than 20,000 votes.

The elder Tupa is set to be proclaimed as congressman of the second district, a post he had held before he became governor.

Tupas' brother, the younger of President Macapagal-Arroyo's two sisters, has been proclaimed the winner in the congressional seat for the first district of Camarines Sur, having won at least 78 percent of the total votes cast.

Also proclaimed were Imelda Formerbella Cruz district) and Felix Alfelor Jr. (4th district).

The proclamation of the winners in the second district has been delayed because of protests over the tabulation in Naga City.

Official results in majority of the 16-member second district showed incumbent Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte (Kampi) by a wide margin over opponent Salguero Baco Jr.

Villafuerte's daughter Jorge Salvador, whose entry was the first that of his opponent, Jojo Villafuerte, in 38,000 to the Sanchez score, and he was unopposed at the elections of the tabulation of results from the 27 barangays of Naga.

Robredo and questions raised by lawyers of Kampi were intended to delay his proclamation, Aquino-Oreta said. Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate Minority Leader Ronald Allan Kelly Poe, Senator Juan Flavier, Senator Sotero Laurel, Senator Edgardo Angara, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, Senator Blas Ople, Senator Francisco Tatad, Senator Vicente Sotto III, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Senator Jinggoy Estrada, Senator Alfredo Lim, Senator Gregorio Honasan, Senator Panfilo Lacson, Senator Manuel Villar Jr., Senator Loren Legarda, Senator Mar Roxas, Senator Joseph Estrada, Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senator Ralph Recto, Senator Robert Barbers, Senator Teofisto Guingona Jr., Senator Juan Flavier, Senator Sotero Laurel, Senator Edgardo Angara, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, Senator Blas Ople, Senator Francisco Tatad, Senator Vicente Sotto III, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Senator Jinggoy Estrada, Senator Alfredo Lim, Senator Gregorio Honasan, Senator Panfilo Lacson, Senator Manuel Villar Jr., Senator Loren Legarda, Senator Mar Roxas, Senator Joseph Estrada, Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senator Ralph Recto, Senator Robert Barbers, Senator Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Torched school to be named after teacher

From page A1

National Office "shots and kills select" to solve one of the most horrifying election-related violences in the just concluded elections.

"I want speedy justice," a visibly-boiling Mr. Arroyo told PNP officials when she visited Camp Crame on the yesterday.

She ordered PNP Director General Oscar Calderon, who also went to Batangas, to investigate the charges against those responsible.

Cops are suspects

Masked and armed men—believed to be members of the PNP Special Operations Group in Batangas and who were identified with an electronic Mayor Armando Villena—fired guns and set fire to other MOC members who Tuesday just after the canvassing of the votes ended. Banaag and Ramos died in the fire.

Calderon said murder charges would be filed on Monday against Chief Insp. Robert Marinda, head of the PNSG team in Batangas, and his deputy, Senior Police Officer 2 William Rubio and three other PNSG members who have yet to be identified and arrested.

Calderon said reporters that Villena, who lost in his reelection bid, was considered a suspect for being the possible mastermind.

He said the Calabarzon police chief and his deputy have been relieved and are under investigation for administrative lapses and command responsibility.

The President, who came here to attend the neurological services for Banaag, gave an undisclosed amount of cash to the families of Banaag and Ramos.

Education Secretary Raul Lapus, who joined the President here, said Banaag's family received close to P600,000 in insurance benefits and financial assistance from the civic, union and social welfare departments and the Government Service Insurance System.

GSIS benefits

During the necrological services, a GSIS official gave the Banaag family about P262,000 representing the partial payment for Banaag's life insurance and survivorship benefits. He said Banaag's family would also receive a monthly pension of P9,180.

Lapus gave P200,000 as life insurance, P50,000 from the central Inquisi and P30,000 from the Dinglid regional office. Calderon also gave an unspecified amount as his department's assistance.

Trapped

According to the school's principal, Francis Opulence, Banaag and Ramos apparently took some inside a small toilet in one of the classrooms when they heard the gunshots. They were trapped and could not get out when some adjoining classrooms erupted in a ball of fire.

A many-eyed Mr. Arroyo arrived at the school head-on-hand with Opulence on look at the burned classrooms and gave orders to Calderon, Lapus, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral and military officers to help rebuild the school. Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita, who is from Batangas, was with the President.

The President then went to a nearby chapel where a mass for the slain students from her motorcade a white coffin bearing the remains of Banaag.

She consoled with Banaag's husband Gidlee and their children Bernadette, Michelle and Gidlee Jr., as well as the husband and some children of Ramos.

Before she left for Luzon to the department," Lapus said in his message during the necrological services.

Teacher for 22 years

He announced that the damaged classrooms of Bolbok and the entire school renamed the Bolbok Banaag School in honor of the slain teacher.

Calderon said Marinda and Rubio would be charged on Monday on the strength of evidence provided by witnesses who identified them as the men who threw gasoline on the school premises, poured gas on them and set fire to the classrooms.

Evidence still weak

He said three other PNSG members have yet to be identified and arrested because they were wearing masks which hid their identities.

Calderon said police has not ruled out the possible involvement of communist New People's Army rebels although it appeared the crime was the result of political rivalries.

He said investigators were looking for the mastermind.

"At this time everyone has their suspicions, but I would say that the evidence we have is still weak," Calderon said.

He said Villena, who has been asked not to leave the province, was definitely a suspect but has yet to be invited for questioning.

'Failure of election'

Calderon said the attack was apparently meant to prompt a declaration of failure of election in the area where Villena was losing.

"The scenario was to have a failure of elections but it did not stop the counting. The winners were proclaimed," he said.

In Camp Crame, Director Ernesto Baraan, chief of the Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management (DIDM), said five police officers from the Calabarzon region have been relieved for their alleged involvement in the burning of the school.

Aside from Rubio and Marinda, Supt. James Dellosantos, chief of the PNP Region 4-A Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG), Batangas, Batangas chief of police Chief Insp. Elpidio Ramirez, his deputy Insp. Basil dela Cruz were all relieved effective yesterday, Barias said.

Marinda said Dellosantos was relieved because of the involvement of his men in the incident and to make sure there would be no interference in the investigations. Dellosantos has already gone on a 90-day leave starting last Thursday.

Suspects in Camp Crame

Ramirez, Dela Cruz, Marinda and Rubio were directed and transferred to Camp Crame yesterday. They are now under the custody of the General Investigation and Detection Group (DIDG).

According to Barias, Ramirez and Dela Cruz would be investigated for possible administrative lapses which allowed the burning of the school to happen.

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Palace returns SC nomination to JBC

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG HAS RETURNED the nomination of Intellectual Property Judge Gregory Ramon Ong to the vacancy in the Supreme Court to the Judicial and Bar Council, saying it was not up to the president to act on the 13 names submitted.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the JBC should iron out the kinks on the citizenship of Ong, who is said to be a citizen of both the Philippines and the United States.

The 1987 Constitution says only natural-born Filipino citizens may be appointed to the SC and collegiate courts.

"We just chose not to act on the nomination coming from the JBC because the chairman of the JBC is the Supreme Court chief Justice Reynato Puno. So the ball is with him. I cannot make any other statement," Ermita told reporters in an interview in Tayuman, Binondo, where he accompanied President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

Ermita said Ong's appointment was not withdrawn.

"It's still there except that validation on the issue [of his citizenship] is being done by the JBC," Ermita said.

Asked if it means Ong's appointment would be removed, Ermita said: "Let's wait for the result because [a] it is [for the JBC that] is the chief justice."

Malacañang recalled the appointment of Ong on Wednesday night after Associate Justice Renato Corona reportedly dropped hints by the JBC to inform the President about the "problem" in his citizenship. It was Ermita who announced to media on Wednesday afternoon that the President accepted Ong's nomination.

Informed sources in the judiciary said the Supreme justices fear four groups were poised to file a case in the Supreme Court questioning Ong's appointment on account of his citizenship and SC justices are not sure they will not attend Ong's oath-taking because of the possibility of a case being lodged before the tribunal.

The sources said Ermita referred the papers from Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, JBC consultant.

Four Secretary Ignacio Bunye had said that Ong's appointment was held in abeyance until his citizenship is resolved. He said the JBC should clarify the matter.

Danding to sell SMC shares to SMC Retirement Fund

By Nikko Dizon
and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BUSINESSMAN EDUARDO COJUANGCO JR. says he intends to sell about 26 billion worth of shares in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) to the SMC Retirement Fund.

Cojuangco yesterday revealed to the Intellectual Property Office that the SMC shares, which the Supreme Court allowed him to dispose of the shares believed to have been illegally acquired during the Marcos dictatorship.

On the bonus, made through a four-page consolidation resolution, was in compliance with one of the conditions set by the Sandiganbayan requiring him to donate to the heirs of the shares prior to the sale.

Yesterday, a total of 50.68 million Class B SMC shares valued at P4.92 billion were traded at the stock market. The shares were sold through a cross sale at P98 per share.

Company officials however declined to comment whether the traded shares were sold by Cojuangco or the SMC Retirement Fund.

Last May 11, the Sandiganbayan's First Division issued promulgation of Cojuangco's motion to be allowed to sell 50,680,413 Class B shares of SMC in the name of 11 corporations that the latter owns.

Cojuangco, who is SMC chairman emeritus of the sale would be used by several Cojuangco-owned companies to pay off their loans to the United Coconut Planters Bank and the Bank of Commerce.

Cojuangco earlier those owned by Filipinos and foreign investors.

The 50.68 million SMC shares represented 7.9 percent of the 77.3 million shares which Cojuangco had wanted to sell.

The shares were part of the 20-percent original block of SMC shares held by Cojuangco and 44 Cojuangco-owned companies who lost the government still claims on grounds that these were bought using the coco levy funds, a levied on collected from coconut farmers in the 1971, 1982, 1983. Cojuangco was then the much-administrator.

The court clarified, though, that giving Cojuangco the go-ahead to sell was not tantamount to upholding his claim of ownership.

Should the government win in the 20-year-old dispute, the food and beverage tycoon will be held liable to the heirs of the shares, the court explained.

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Saturday, May 19, 2007
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading
Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples: "When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I tell you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. So far you have not asked anything in my name; ask and receive that your joy may be full.

"I taught you all this in veiled language, but the time is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

"When that day comes, you will ask in my name and it will not be for me to ask the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and believed that I came from the Father; I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

COMMENTARY

They were in Ephesus and Priscilla and Aquila host Apollo, preaching about Jesus and John's baptism in the synagogue. They bring him home and teach him more and in greater detail (and again, life goes on as a missionary and teacher does as the Messiah among the Jews. The Spirit works, others and as it wills, even without the Church knowing it is) and other peoples become aware and more such other they tend to be taken more and shared the good news in greater depth.

Jesus continues to that we can ask for anything in his name and he tells that will give it to us. Has he told the full. He further tells us because we love Jesus and believe in him Jesus is preparing the world to go to the Father but we are now in the Father in Jesus (cf. What are we asking the Father for in Jesus' name—what to do Church, the world, and believers—and more?

(Servants Ministries Inc., Malaysia no. 20 Village Address, Samora City, 20 del Rio 4, Malaysia, 1-800 Quezon City, M. 800-0000, Fax: 800-0000, E-mail: [illegible], Website: http://www.bible.com/org/Christian_Publications/4 E-mail: http://www.philippinesmissionaries.org/Christian_Missionaries/4 or the Philippines)

Corrections

IN THE FIRST edition of the May 16 issue, the Election 2007 Corrector tally on the front page omitted inadvertently the names and votes of, and the number of votes for six senatorial candidates. This resulted in inaccurate ranking and the erroneous inclusion of certain candidates in the Top 12.

The candidates whose names were omitted are Manuel Villar Jr. (in third place with 1,261,536 votes), Sonia Roco (in 4th place with 75,442 votes), Jose Miguel Arroyo (11th with 60,289 votes), Victoire Sotto (12th with 61,683 votes), John Osmeña (13th with 54,127 votes) and Prospero Pichay Jr. (19th with 51,153 votes).

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the banner story—"No voting in Maguindanao"—mentioned that the Liberal Party, as the dominant minority party, is entitled to the "fourth copy of the election returns and other official election documents." The LP is entitled to the fifth—not fourth—copy of the ERs. The fourth copy is given to the National Government Agency for Voter Elections for the official quick count.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the Election 2007 tally on Page A11 erroneously stated the winners of the police senator race in Metro Manila. Based on the final results of the Commission on Elections, the winners of the post is Panfilo Lacson—not Ilocos Sur Governor Chavit Singson.

The tally also counted the number of votes for Batangas congressional candidate Richard Recto. Recto got 13,436—not 194,436—votes.

In the Sorsogon City mayoralty race, Sorsogon Governor Raul Lee got 25,195 votes, losing to Sorsogon Vice Governor Sally Lee, who got 37,220 votes.

The tally also measured the number of votes for candidates congressional candidate Richard Recto. Recto got 13,436—not 194,436—votes.

In the Sorsogon City mayoralty race, Sorsogon Governor Raul Lee got 25,195 votes, losing to Sorsogon Vice Governor Sally Lee, who got 37,220 votes.

The tally also measured the number of votes for candidates congressional candidate Elenita Bataller got 58,474 votes, not 364,474 votes.

Besides, Comelec proclaimed her congressional of the first district of Batangas, after getting a total of 193,127 votes.

Ramon Lechon III was erroneously declared winner of the congressional race in Cavite, the opponent, Mario Hilario Magpayo, was the one proclaimed by Comelec as representative of the province's first district.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors or omissions in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Media Center Building, Doña Julia Vargas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, or fax them at 897-2271 or 897-2670, e-mail them at [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph or [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph, or text them at 0918-[illegible]. Please include your full name, address and contact number for verification purposes. Only errors will be published.

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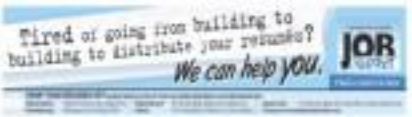

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

Namfrel men barred from Maguindanao canvassing

From page A1

among the volunteers had received copies of the election returns (ERs) supposed to be given to Namfrel representatives for monitoring the precincts where these were accomplished.

"They have no ERs. No one has seen an ER because they were not given to us. Only Namfrel members there to whip you into submission," Ilo said.

"They bring all the ballot boxes to a centralized place, in this case the capitols in Shariff Aguak, where they tabulate everything," he said, adding:

"However, the volunteers are not allowed to enter the area where the tabulation is taking place. So I asked who was the chairman of our volunteers. But the chairs' counselors said they will tell us from."

100 volunteers

Earlier yesterday in a press conference, Ilo said Namfrel had yet to hear from its volunteers in Maguindanao.

"We hope they are not in danger, but we cannot contact [us]," he said, adding that while Namfrel had 100 volunteers in Cotabato City, 50 in Sultan Kudarat, 50 in Cotabato and 1,000 volunteers in Maguindanao, "they are, in turn, unable to contact the volunteers assigned to monitor the canvassing."

After the news conference, Namfrel secretary general Eric Alvia estimated that about 300 volunteers in Maguindanao were unaccounted for.

He said Maguindanao had around 350,000 voters, although Ilo put the figure at 360,000 during the news conference.

Alvia explained his estimate this way: If there are 336,000 voters in Maguindanao and 100 volunteers in each precinct, there should be around 1,680 precincts in the province. If a volunteer is to get the ERs from an average of 53 precincts, "there would be around 1,588, 1,589 [volunteers]. But as you can see, we have a shortage of volunteers, at 1100 [or] so. Since there is around 1,680."

Alvia further blamed said it also had no communication with provincial officers and lawyers of the Commission on Elections in Maguindanao.

So far, Namfrel has received only 6,26 percent of tabulations from all the provinces. Region IX, Muslim Mindanao, which includes Maguindanao, North 11, the Namfrel update released at 1:47 p.m. yesterday, indicated there were no tabulations received at all from Maguindanao.

According to Ilo, the votes in Maguindanao are sufficiently significant to influence who will occupy the 13th and 14th slots in the senatorial race.

'Show proof'

Maguindanao has lately bagged the headlines with initial returns showing a Team Unity 12-0 sweep, in contrast to early returns showing a slate of administration Senator Genuino Opposition. Local officials, meanwhile, as well as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, were quick to claim that its election was actually held in many parts of the province.

To this, as well as claims of ballot-switching and vote-padding during canvassing in other parts of Mindanao, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. said: Show proof.

"Magsalita ka (Say that) [it should] be supported by evidence," he said yesterday before presiding over the national canvassing. Abalos was there in person at the Philippine International Convention Center since Wednesday.

"How can you say that voting in Maguindanao did not take place unless you are in Manila?" the Commission is hearing," Abalos also said.

Maguindanao provincial election supervisor Linting Sinsuat denied the claim no elections were held in the province on May 14.

Explaining the '51 sweep, Sinsuat said the law now strongly raised the factor of leadership in Bicutan upon the elevation of local government units.

"There is now the 'Bailiwick Doctrine' in which the law vests power in the hands of the mayor since the influence of political leadership to penetrate [blocks] voting," he said.

Abalos said he would not be arrogant to say that the votes in Maguindanao giving the administration senatorial candidates a clean sweep.

"People should understand the culture of these tribal groups," he said. "These tribal groups really act in one. Why do we not question religious groups with block voting?"

Abalos said those alleging fraud "should come out with specifics, with concrete evidence."

His reason to prosecute

Also at the Namfrel news conference, Ilo presented Sporers belonging to the legal network for Truthful Elections (Lente) and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), who assured that if the volunteers had not yet surfaced as of midday, it may be because they had their plan failed to secure the early copy of the ERs from their assigned precincts.

Namfrel, following its accreditation as citizens' arm to poll watchdog, has been allowed by the Comelec to obtain the early copy of all 300+ Pipatim from the ERs are released to Namfrel headquarters for tabulation in its unofficial canvass.

Lente is a nationwide group of legal experts, paralegals and law students who help the Namfrel and the PPCRV in monitoring the canvassing of votes.

Lente convenor Carlos Abel Ata complained that the group's members had failed to receive the early copy of the ERs in many areas nationwide.

In the case of Maguindanao, where the votes have already been retired, it will be difficult for Lente to prosecute parties responsible for any instance of election fraud because of lack of documentary evidence to present to court, he said.

Thus, Lente lawyers have had to monitor the canvass with no clue as to whether cheating was taking place, he added.

"The Lente canvass watchers were not looking at what were being entered on the [election] returns in the canvassing. There was no basis to know whether there was cheating since we ourselves do not know the real figures, not having ERs to base figures on," Medina said, adding:

"If you do not have the ERs from the precincts, how do you check the authenticity of the canvass at the municipal level? And ultimately the result to be submitted to the provincial and national levels?"

National tally first

PPCRV national legal counsel Emanuel Calleja, on the other hand, expressed alarm over the reported practice of many canvassers of prioritizing the tabulation of the local elections and putting aside the outcome of the congressional and party-list elections for later scrutiny.

"The law says the [tabulation] should be done together, and if ever they are done separately the national tabulation should be done first," Calleja said.

Namfrel's Alvia warned that the practice would discourage many volunteers from completing their monitoring duty.

In most cases, if the [volunteers are] more concerned with the local tally, they lose interest in the national tally if this is done later. That's why the national tally should be done ahead," he said.

Medina went further, warning that if volunteers lost interest in completing their monitoring duties, they would lessen the canvassing—"and that's when the magic happens."

Meanwhile, Sen. Joker Arroyo, lawyer for Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, were barred from entering the room where the provincial canvassing was supposedly taking place.

"The board of canvassers declared an entry even if we presented all our PPCRV identification, which serves as our authorization letter," he said.

Legards to sue

Elsewhere, GO candidate Loren Legarda yesterday threatened action against persons found involved in election fraud across the country.

Legarda said she would pursue charges against those engaged in dagdag-bawas (vote-padding and -shaving) and other forms of cheating.

"It's bad enough that losing No. 1 of No. 12. It's about the votes getting credited to the candidates who were meant to receive them," said Legarda who, along with fellow GO candidates Francis Escudero, have been leading in Comelec and Namfrel counts.

Legarda made the statement in the wake of the alleged fraud in Maguindanao. She said she had also received reports of her votes getting diverted in Mountain Province.

"I've been a victim of cheating before, and I will not let the voice will of the people be subverted yet again," she said.

Escudero backed calls for an investigation of irregularities in the May 14 elections, and disclosed claims that the apparent victory of GO candidates was proof that the political maneuver was done and buried.

"The opposition admitted it lacks and thinks one that assigns no effort to the winning cause. We are winning in spite of the fraud," Escudero said.

"The Comelec should proceed with its announced plans in Lanao norte possible [hearing in Maguindanao," he said.

The GO had earlier called on the Comelec to investigate alleged irregularities made by Namfrel provincial chair Bai Abdullah Sakilig that the number of registered voters in Maguindanao had increased from 375,572 to 396,772.

Not so fast

Administration congressmen, however, believe that the Comelec has no authority to probe the Maguindanao elections in the absence of a poll protest.

House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur and Antiqui Rep. Exequiel Javier, both lawyers, said the Comelec should wait for a formal protest from an aggrieved party before conducting an inquiry.

"There's nothing strange or irregular with Team Unity's 12-0 win in Maguindanao. It's the culmination of a political machinery of the Executive Department in the province," Cerilles said.

"If he's campaigned hard and their efforts were rewarded by the support given by the administration, then congratulations. Administration machinery there, are urge the Comelec to be objective in dealing with it is not ranked against TU, especially if those are not backed by any formal protest," he said.

Javier said the won-rigging claims of GO were mere allegations and "should not be dignified by the Comelec [with] on our right probe."

"Let the consumers file their poll protest so that can be resolved at the proper forum," he said.

Lanao del Sur

In Lanao del Sur, local election monitors believe that vote-rigging operations are ongoing.

According to Muslim's Ilo Ishig, this is indicated by the refusal of local Comelec officials to hand over to them the said's copy of ERs from the province.

"There is the possibility that dagdag-bawas has now gone down to the level of the ER," Ishig said.

A quick count is supposed to be a counter-cheating measure against a rigged official count. With the ERs not released, Namfrel's effectively defanged as a citizens' arm to monitor irregularity in the canvassing.

Ishig said yesterday this at a dubitante strategy on the part of Comelec officials "to hide the monster that they are going to do."

It was Ishig who, armed with a license declared from the Ulilan Mayor, who initially led the volunteer brand constituted by Comelec officials in Lanao del Sur to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

As of yesterday morning, 12 towns have completed the provincial level canvass. But Namfrel is in possession of only five complete sets of ERs from five towns—Balindong, Bubong, and Madamba.

Most of the Missed ERs are also with Namfrel.

The release of ERs to Namfrel was done on a bulk basis, meaning, after the canvass of all the precincts in a town has been completed.

Although this arrangement does not sit well with Ishig, he said he can officially local Comelec officials the breach of the deals, as long as the ERs are in his hand within the day the last precinct-level canvass was completed.

Failure of elections

Maguindanao Lente, a congressional candidate of Mr. Arroyo's party, Kabalikat ng Maunlarang Pilipino (Kampi), noted that failure of elections include a failure of elections in Pirong, Lanao del Sur.

Lente complained that in Pirong, he scored zero, the town, two of the boards of election inspectors were taken, and elections returns were filled up in advance.

"The elections in the entire municipality of Pirong is zombie, illegal and sham. In effect, there was no election to speak of," said Lente, a lawyer, and a former justice undersecretary and ambassador to Egypt. Withdrawn from Jerome Aning and Edsan C. Nandoc Jr. in Manila, Ayan B. Bonoan and Noah R. Bandoma, Inquirer Mindanao.

Still 8-2-2 for GO in Comelec count

From page A1

12th slot with 7M,435.

In the 13th slot was Ralph Recto (TU) with 7M,112,727 votes.

Rounding out the 14th slot was Cayetano and Biazon. In fourth—who made made it to the 11th slot is only tabulation of 6M to 11th place with 6M,414 votes.

Senator Manuel Villar (TU) topped the race in his home province of Leyte for with 208,405 votes over Legarda's 142,796. Recto was not enough to propel him into the Magic 12, he ranked 20th.

No second body is nearby La Salle.

Up and down

Pollay scored well in Bicol, San Jaime, Camiguin and Davao, while Angara scored well in his home province of Aurora, as well as Quezon and Biazon.

Included in the partial total, compared by the business from the votes cast by the Commission on Overseas Filipinos (COF), are votes from 19 provinces and three cities in the National Capital Region, as well as 55 countries for the overseas absentee voting.

From Sun Bantuhin, Mariveleque, Mountain Province and Italy were also canvassed but these had not been included yet in the partial tally as the canvassers discovered discrepancies between a few entries in the certificates of canvass (COCs) and the statements of votes (SOVs).

In Zambales, for instance, the votes of Iba-Olon and Alan Cayetano (GO) each reached 100,000 votes in the SOVs. But in the COC, their votes were written as just over 30,000.

The discrepancies are to be solved by the tabulation committee.

Within 10 days

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday vowed to speed up the canvassing to attempt to finish it within 10 days, rather than in the 30th election.

The treatment of Commission on Overseas Tuason's mother is scheduled on Sunday.

Abalos said that while the poll body concluded Mrs. Tuason, "we do not allow ourselves to be affected by personal problems."

But what's taking the Comelec so long to release the official results tabulated by the National Board of Canvassers?

Three days into the tabulation of the COCs, the Comelec has yet to come up with its own updated consolidated figures in the senatorial and party-list elections, leaving reporters to add up the results read out loud by the NBC.

At press time, the official tally sheet for the senatorial race is read by the Comelec showed COCs canvassed on Wednesday reflecting 1,497 votes in the remaining elective positions.

For the party-list elections, the Comelec released COC results from abroad tallied on Thursday noon with only 1,203 votes consolidated.

(There is a huge tally board at the gym of the Philippine International Convention Center but it only showed the running total of COCs from the overseas voting.)

To give the public the real picture of the Comelec canvassing of COCs, Abalos said he will begin to make up for the lack of updated official results.

Computations

"When the vice-chief commissioners take their seats on a session at the PICC, signaling the start of the canvassing, reporters drop everything to jot down the results of the COCs.

Bulletin-type sorry reporters use computers equipped with tumbler processors to input those figures for expeditious accounting and ranking of senatorial candidates and party-list groups.

But those comfortable with the old-fashioned way of computing rely on calculators, ledgers and, yes, their own mathematical prowess, if any.

But the "lasting word" of adding up results of the canvassing of COCs ahead of the poll body is no longer new to veteran Comelec reporters, and even for representatives of senatorial candidates and party-list groups who covered the canvassing in the 2004 presidential elections.

Real picture

On May 16, the first day of the canvassing, a media relations officer of a leading senatorial candidate was seen with the media center and offered reporters a tally sheet to use in encoding the results.

Another media affiliate of a known party-list group was invited to work on the heading for their club containing his group's own computation to reporters for cross-checking.

"If you want to see the real picture, you have to be inside the [PICC] and do the actual tallying," the media affiliate, who requested anonymity, told the Inquirer.

ABS-CBN reporter Lynda Jo, media said the Comelec's education and information division (EID) used to help reporters add up the figures. However, these were still unaudited results by the Comelec and, therefore, could not be considered official.

Jamilla also counted the 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2004 elections.

He said this was the first time that she added up the results of the COCs on her own without the EID's help.

"They used to give us the running totals on a sectoral basis of the day. But those were still unaudited," she said. "This time, if we tally on the Comelec to give us totals, we'll get them tomorrow by then, the story would be stale."

Jamilla said she liked to be as careful as she could by limiting mainly to the canvassers read out the COC results. She said she would not close down in her notebook until the tally board is updated.

Jamilla said she liked to be as careful as she could by limiting mainly to the canvassers read out the COC results. She said she would not close down in her notebook until the tally board is updated.

Slow pace

If she makes a mistake, "I'm willing to write it out in my own story," Jamilla said.

Comelec executive director Nicias Jones, who also chairs the canvassing supervisory commission, admitted that the poll body was slow in releasing the official results.

He explained that it was because the process included several layers of cross-checking.

From the tabulation, the results will be audited, encoded and validated again before they are released.

"We check, countercheck and double-check," Jones said in an interview.

He added that there was nothing wrong with the media and candidates' representatives coming up with their own tabulation.

"The figures are based on official COC results from the [NBC]," he said.

But for the media, Jones said they could even release their own computation as long as they mentioned that the figures were based on the NBC canvassing.

But what if there would be discrepancies between what has been released by the media and what would be issued by the Comelec?

"There would be discrepancies, but it would be minimal," Comelec Jones said.

Toss of coin breaks tie for town council seat in Bontoc, Mt. Province

From page A1

to losers

Mt. you picked? Montreal poll watchers asked Mary Ulomming, municipal election supervisor, after the tie for Pipping. This caused the counting to be suspended for candidates and their supporters.

"The people were not expecting that tossing a coin was an option to break the tie. The people were laughing and asking me 'Are you joking?'" Ulomming told the Inquirer.

Tossing a coin to break a tie might sound odd for voters but Ulomming said this method was included in the Commission on Elections guidelines.

Aside from flipping a coin, another option was drawing lots to break the tie, she said.

The two candidates who were vying for the last slot were Brian Bellang, chief of Barangay Alab Ilaya, and Benjamin Ngotag, an incumbent municipal councilor of Bontoc.

Bellang, 27, a neophyte politician, drew three heads and zero.

The first to have had to explain the feeling when four heads in four coin tossing? But I was happy that I won," he said.

Gentleman's agreement

Bellang and the canvass was late for him and his supporters.

"We talked about it when the coin flipping was proposed to us. We both agreed to give way to each other. He is a relative after all. It was a gentlemen's agreement," he said.

But for residents here, election was a time when tossing money for vote-buying was not a laughing matter.

Fr. Marvin Bongayoan, chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting National Coalition of Churches in Tinc Province in Mt. Province, said vote-buying was so rampant, some residents called the May 14 elections the dirtiest in the province's history.

"We had no culture of vote-buying before. But because of too much poverty, it was done. In the past, we elected our leaders on integrity . . . Modern politics has changed some practices," Bongayoan lamented.

Forced to take money

In Barangay Balugang in Bagabag town, elders on Tuesday night talked about how to eliminate vote-buying after a teacher allegedly distributed money given by a mayoral candidate.

Stickers which carried a message—"We may be poor but we do not sell/buy votes" were pasted at the Bontoc town center.

"There is the possibility that dagdag-bawas has now gone down to the level of the ER," Ilo said.

A quick count is supposed to be a counter-cheating measure against a rigged official count. With the ERs not released, Namfrel's effectively defanged as a citizens' arm to monitor irregularity in the canvassing.

Ishig said yesterday this at a dubitante strategy on the part of Comelec officials "to hide the monster that they are going to do."

It was Ishig who, armed with a license declared from the Ulilan Mayor, who initially led the volunteer brand constituted by Comelec officials in Lanao del Sur to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

As of yesterday morning, 12 towns have completed the provincial level canvass. But Namfrel is in possession of only five complete sets of ERs from five towns—Balindong, Bubong, Binidalan, Dimaro Ramain, Bubong and Madamba.

Most of the Missed ERs are also with Namfrel.

The release of ERs to Namfrel was done on a bulk basis, meaning, after the canvass of all the precincts in a town has been completed.

Although this arrangement does not sit well with Ishig, he said he can officially local Comelec officials the breach of the deals, as long as the ERs are in his hand within the day the last precinct-level canvass was completed.

Failure of elections

Maguindanao Lente, a congressional candidate of Mr. Arroyo's party, Kabalikat ng Maunlarang Pilipino (Kampi), noted that failure of elections include a failure of elections in Pirong, Lanao del Sur.

Lente complained that in Pirong, he scored zero, the town, two of the boards of election inspectors were taken, and elections returns were filled up in advance.

"The elections in the entire municipality of Pirong is zombie, illegal and sham. In effect, there was no election to speak of," said Lente, a lawyer, and a former justice undersecretary and ambassador to Egypt. Withdrawn from Jerome Aning and Edsan C. Nandoc Jr. in Manila, Ayan B. Bonoan and Noah R. Bandoma, Inquirer Mindanao.

RP reelected to UN human rights council

By Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

GOVERNMENT officials are taking the Philippines' reelection to another three-year term as the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) as a vindication of the country and a vote of confidence by the international community in the Philippines' commitment to human rights.

"This is a recognition by the member states of our sincere efforts to address issues of human rights, promoting conflict resolution through constructive dialogue and our strong advocacy for the rights of migrant workers," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Ambassador Hilario Davide, the Permanent Representative to the UN, reported that the Philippines placed third in the election on Thursday for new Council members. At least 26 countries need to vote in favor out of the 47 member UNHRC.

In his report, Davide said the country obtained a total of 179 votes, 43 more than the votes it received when it was elected to office here in 2006.

Davide said the reelection was a "vindication for the Philippines and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo" in the face of a campaign by non-government organizations to frustrate the country's reelection bid because of alleged rights abuses.

The UNHRC election was held against a backdrop of strong opposition from civil-society groups to the candidacies of alleged rights violators like Belarus and Egypt.

The Hong Kong-based Asian Legal Resource Center and the Philippine-based Malaysian (Rights) were among those who lobbied 191 countries not to vote for the Philippines because of alleged rampant human rights violations.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said the Philippines' third-place finish demonstrated the international community's "continued confidence in the Philippines' commitments to uphold, protect and promote human rights."

It was "a clear vote of confidence for the Philippines and President Arroyo's efforts to move further forward the global agenda of upholding and protecting human rights," he said.

Bunye said the President was elated at the news and congratulated Davide and Romulo.

Romulo said the Philippines, in its reelection campaign, had made certain voluntary commitments, including a strengthened resolve to address politically motivated killings of journalists and activists, sustained leadership in promoting interfaith dialogue, continued safeguarding of the rights of migrant workers and commitment to making the HRC a more efficient and effective organization.

The HRC, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly was created on March 15, 2006 to replace the discredited UN Commission on Human Rights, which was criticized mainly for the right of its members to enjoy membership even though they did not guarantee the human rights of their own citizens.

Belarus and Egypt won election to the council on Thursday despite the appeal to UN member states by some 40 human rights organizations and a range of regional and international organizations not to elect them because of their allegedly "appalling human rights record and consistent failure to cooperate with the UN."

India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Qatar, Holy See, Netherlands, Russia and Switzerland, Slovenia, Nicaragua, Bolivia, South Africa, Angola also won seats in the council.

Romulo earlier expressed confidence that the Philippines would be reelected despite the blame the latter has been suffering in Asia.

The Philippines has been criticized internationally, particularly by the United States and the European Union, for its worsening human rights record.

The 2007 Annual Rapporteur Philip Alston, in a preliminary report to the HRC last March, accused the government of tolerating extra-judicial killings by the military.

Party-list leader fumes over Palace link

By Christian V. Esguerra

DR. ABUBAKR AMILON, top nominee of the Bayan Muna party-list, yesterday lashed out against alleged accusations that his group was a front for the terrorist organization.

Amilon was also angry over insinuations that his group was trapping the Philippine Marines in Basilan to be killed by the Abu Sayyaf.

He said he was referring to the elder brother of Comelec chair.

"But nobody was fooling me that," he said. "I'm not even known in the Comelec. I've never been there."

The official Comelec tally on Thursday saw the elder Akbayan! group topping the party-list race with 12,592 votes. In second place was the more popular Gabriela Women's Party with 12,431, followed by the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) with 9,055.

Amilon, a doctor of medicine, sounded upset when asked how his group managed to get such a huge number of votes.

"Don't ask me. I have no hold over the voters!" he said.

Later, he said Bindoy, Piñero, a group claiming to represent security drivers in Mindanao, had more than 300,000 members, which is unreasonable. Party-list organizations rely on their main base in local seats in Congress.

Outgoing Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales was the first to criticize Amilon for claiming to represent a security drivers' organization when elected, he was a doctor of medicine.

In a letter to the Comelec, Rosales questioned the propriety of the Comelec chair accrediting the party-list group of his own brothers.

"Akbayan (saying) that it is of no importance ... that the brother of no less than the chair of the Comelec is a high-ranking leader of a party list group that you recently accredited?" she wrote.

Besides also alleged that Bindoy Piñero (was) among at least 11 party-list groups that supported Abalos during the said election.

Akbayan Sambayanan and fighting.

The groups charged the allegations, based on the official Comelec tally, not one of the groups was faring well. Aglipay garnered only 5,521 votes. Alay, 332, and Bayan, 956 according to the Thursday results.

Home Guaranty Corporation
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	LOCATION	TOTAL AREA	MINIMUM BID
A parcel of residential land with improvements	Lot 2 Block 21 Caldecott Manor Step 1 Subdivision, Barangka, Marikina	1,000 sq. m.	₱ 1,000,000.00

General Conditions:

1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis.
2. All interested parties may inspect the property from **May 21, 2007 to June 20, 2007**.
3. All bidders must submit their bids in a sealed envelope addressed to the **HGC BIDDING COMMITTEE** on or before **June 20, 2007** at 10:00 A.M.
4. Terms of Payment:
   4.1 For CASH BASIS: (the following amount shall apply)
   - 100% - Balance
   - 5% - If paid in full within 30 days from signing of sales documents
   - 3% - If paid in full within 60 days from signing of sales documents
   - 2% - If paid in full within 90 days from signing of sales documents
   4.2 For INSTALLMENT SALE (discounts are not applicable)
   - Minimum down payment
   - Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum term of ten (10) years at twelve (12%) interest per annum.
5. Bidding documents may be secured from the Accounting Department of the Corporation at the 3rd Floor, Solicentro Building, 120 San Juan Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila on or before **May 31, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (₱5,000.00)**.
6. The opening of the sealed bids should be attended by the designated bids and bidders' committee of Home Guaranty Corporation at the 3rd Floor Solicentro Building, 120 San Juan Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila on **May 31, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.**
7. All bidders are advised to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
8. The award of the sale covering the property shall be based on the **HIGHEST BID RECEIVED** or **NO award whatsoever by the Corporation.**

For inquiries, please call Jonathan Briones at tel. no. 727-0222 loc. 2 or Nestor Palomo at tel. no. 727-0222 loc. 3 or visit our office at Solicentro Building, 120 San Juan Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREOF IN CASE OF ANOMALY. SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL F. DE LOS SANTOS**
Vice President
Asset Management & Disposition Group

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Pampanga Lending Center
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase of **LAND BANK** of the properties hereinafter above described and the Office of the Lending Center in **Pampanga Lending Center, LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, San Fernando, Pampanga, Republic of the Philippines, Pampanga not later than **May 28, 2007 (Monday) 10:00 AM** at which place and time all bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
(LOT 1) This is a parcel of land with an area of 2,214 sq. m. and 1,000 sq. m. respectively, both covered by TCT No. 000-2006000000 and 000-2006000000 both registered with the Register of Deeds of Pampanga in the name of Land Bank of the Philippines, Pampanga Lending Center, situated in Brgy. Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The property is accessible by any type of vehicle. Nearest landmark is Brgy. No. 3, 7.5 km. northward (NB).	₱ 4,253,004.00
(LOT 2) This is a parcel of land with an area of 1,000 sq. m. and 1,000 sq. m. respectively, both covered by TCT No. 000-2006000000 and 000-2006000000 both registered with the Register of Deeds of Pampanga in the name of Land Bank of the Philippines, Pampanga Lending Center, situated in Brgy. Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The property is accessible by any type of vehicle. Nearest landmark is Brgy. No. 3, 7.5 km. northward (NB).	₱ 4,215,404.00
(LOT 3) This is a parcel of land with an area of 1,000 sq. m. and 1,000 sq. m. respectively, both covered by TCT No. 000-2006000000 and 000-2006000000 both registered with the Register of Deeds of Pampanga in the name of Land Bank of the Philippines, Pampanga Lending Center, situated in Brgy. Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The property is accessible by any type of vehicle. Nearest landmark is Brgy. No. 3, 7.5 km. northward (NB).	₱ 4,211,000.00

Bid forms, Rules and Regulations may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Vice President, Pampanga Lending Center, **LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, 3rd Floor, Solicentro Building, Pampanga-Rizal Boulevard, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Prospective bidders are required to inspect the above-cited properties before entering their bid.

The sale of the above-mentioned properties is on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder/s shall have to pay the cost of the publication of this invitation to bid in the winning bid/s. For the land, the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authority.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREOF AND TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **DAVID C. BORROMEO**
Chairman / APC/CEO

Bishop says JDV win means Cha-cha revival

BLESS WITH THE PROSPECT OF a Senate that is firmly in the hands of the opposition, Malacañang is now more empathetic than ever to elected people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

In blessing Oscar Cruz, in an interview with dzRH radio, said that the reelection of Speaker Jose de Venecia has made the revival of Charter change more convenient.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Panfilo Lacson said that Malacañang has no choice but to explore all avenues, including Charter change, to neutralize the threats which has become even more real administration with the Senate Opposition expected to dominate the 14th Congress.

Malacañang had been reluctant to jumping for Charter change up to the end of last year in an attempt as well as candid in warning to abolish the Senate to run of seats in polls.

"People's rumours is Malacañang's only option left to push for Charter change but even that is being repudiated by the people themselves," said Lacson in an interview. "In short, they are probably left with no option but to allow the President to step down on June 30, 2010, even if the change would mean like a lifetime nightmare to all those who used their power to abuse our people."

Pimentel warned that pushing Charter change now would be an act of desperation for the administration.

"It would be most foolhardy of the President and her cohorts would try. That would really be jumping the fence," said Pimentel.

While it might be trailing badly on the presidential race, the administration has taken comfort in the announced pro-Arroyo results in the congressional races that has made it more difficult for the opposition to mount an impeachment case at the House of Representatives. A stronger House majority will also give the administration a stronger hand to push for Charter change.

Bits of Wits from Dr. Argie Lets

Let me first tell you the things that you need to know about stroke. Just like heart attack, stroke is a serious disease and is one of the leading causes of death in the country. Others call it the "brain attack" for it happens when the blood stops flowing to the brain because of blood clot. You should also know that the damage of stroke in the brain can affect your entire body, resulting in mild to severe disabilities." If you have hypertension or diabetes, your risk of getting stroke is much higher.

Now that you have learned what stroke is, I am sure that you found it really alarming. I tell you- you don't have to worry too much because it may be prevented if you only know what to do.

First, you have to find out if you are in danger of suffering a stroke. Only your doctor can carefully evaluate if you are at risk. If so, he will advise you to take an antihypertensive or anti diabetic drugs together with an indispensable preventive pill known as Aspilets. People who take this regard it as their **right lifetime partner** because with a lifetime of daily intake, this will help there avoid stroke incidents. Aspirin or **Aspilets** is used worldwide by people at risk because of its blood thinning effect which most Filipinos coin as *"pampalabnaw ng dugo"*. It allows a smooth flow of blood to the entire system and prevents clotting which is the cause of stroke as I mentioned earlier. Health is also a matter of living a healthy lifestyle--that goes to say that you have to stay within the boundaries of healthy limits.!

These are the basic things that you should learn about stroke and how to prevent it. Know the signs and ask your doctor's advice on how to prevent it. Secure your life with a healthy flow of blood through a daily dose of Aspirin. Ask your Doctor its full benefits and why for so many years, so many people have been protected by Aspilets. Health is in the blood. Make sure to let it flow.

Court tells ex-Customs chief to pay

THE COURT OF AP-peals has directed former Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva to pay ₱800,000 in damages to another customs official arising from his refusal to recognize her position in the bureau that was Ombudsman chiefs.

Villanueva was ordered to pay the moral, consider of moral damages, exemplary damages and attorney's fees for the amount, costs of litigation. Rosario when he allowed another person appointee to exercise the powers of her position and included her picture from the listing of officials posted on responsibility for the rules of Customs' 100th anniversary in 2002.

Sougarra had contested the position of Deputy Commissioner for Investigation and Monitoring with Gil Valera, who was appointed to the same position by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001.

Sougarra had been able to secure an injunction against Valera's appointment to the post, but the said injunction did not obey the court order.

She said Villanueva caused unwarranted advising Valera to exercise the powers of his office, including performing in executive staff meetings and issuing memorandum and circulars, and also excluded her picture from the memorandum and billboard in the Bureau of Customs.

NOWHERE ELSE TO GO BUT UP

RAMCAR at 88

MANEUVERING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Talk about mileage. That's Motolite's language. For a "pangmatagalan" battery that can do so much, a parent company that has also survived the tests of time had to be responsible. From its humble beginning in 1919, Ramcar expanded into an all-Filipino conglomerate that is at par with the world's best industries in battery manufacturing, sales and distribution, machine building and engineering solutions, business enterprise solutions, and recycling and environmental protection. Promising? We're just getting started.

Power Up with the Toughest, Most Trusted Batteries
Motolite. Trusted and proven, this battery stands as the heart of our business. Advanced and technologically superior, Motolite batteries use materials of the highest quality and undergo manufacturing processes that surpass strict international standards. A range of other products that truly move industries are also covered: from automotive to motorcycle, marine, solar and other industrial batteries. Numerous awards from prestigious local and international standards organizations prove that our batteries are truly world class. Trusted na Pangmatagalan.

Rev Up with Sales and Distribution Networks
The company has made it accessible to every Filipino through innovative distribution networks. With the "Motolite Express Hatid" service, the very first battery express of its kind, drivers anywhere in Metro Manila were within reach of a Motolite Battery.

Gear Up with Machine Building and Engineering Solutions
Since the industrial era, it became common knowledge that a company was never without its equipment. Get that technological edge through Ramcar's expertise in custom design, fabrication or replication of industrial equipment and tooling for a wide variety of applications. Its services include engineering expertise, design, and fabrication of plastic injection moulds, precision tools, and industrial and stainless steel equipment.

Hype Up through Business Enterprise Solutions
Knowledge never stagnates. It should be constantly updated and shared. Such is the key in Ramcar's ability to revolutionize businesses. Through strategic IT planning, business process re-engineering and outsourcing and ERP evaluation, Ramcar provides business enterprise solutions that are consistently integrated, completely relevant, and have great value for money. It also offers world-class and affordable integrated enterprise SAP courses in their Kaisa Academy, the only accredited SAP Academy in the Philippines.

Clean Up with Recycling and Environmental Protection
Ramcar's products are not only 'pangmatagalan', but also environmental friendly, thanks to its ISO 14001 certified battery recycler and smelter. This facility is the sole and largest in the Philippines and the first and second largest in Asia. The company is also working with global organizations in developing stricter and more comprehensive environmental standards.

Despite its success, Ramcar remains a socially responsible company that has taken the proactive role of molding the country and the world. Together with other corporate, socio-civic, and local government organizations, the company increases awareness on the harmful effects of indiscriminate disposal of used batteries. This is made sure through the Balik-Bateya initiative which seeks to collect from the end-user expired batteries for reprocessing into raw materials for new batteries. Other companies under the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) as well as other NGOs have followed Ramcar's lead by educating their internal organizations about the said issue.

It doesn't end there. Ramcar expands its market globally as it exports its products and services in the United States, Europe, Middle East and the rest of Asia. Expect such and more from a company that has always kept its drivers miles ahead from the rest for the past 88 years. These progressions are milestones not only for Ramcar, but for every Filipino.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Your e-mail feedback is welcome. Visit our Website www.inquirer.net/opinion

Text or your feedback (capital letter opinion then your message) to 2267 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Shameless, just shameless

EDITORIAL

THREE HOURS INTO ELECTION DAY, BENIGNO Aquino faxed reporters and gave his assessment of the mid-term polls. "There's an overall confusion due to the excitement," he said. "Many wanted to vote ahead. Maybe before 12 noon or by 1 p.m., the tension will ease off."

Let's think about this for a minute. The chairman of the Commission on Elections, the principal government official responsible for the clean and orderly conduct of our elections, sees the first hours of the mid-term vote were marked by "overall confusion." Then he adds that he expects maybe two more hours of disorderliness—and what, after all, does confusion mean in this context, but the lack of order in the conduct of the elections? If we do Aquino much, that means that he fully expected five of the eight hours allotted for voting every three years, or well over 60 percent, to be confusing. By his own standards, therefore, the May 14 elections must be reckoned as confused, disorderly.

(Aquino himself had a hand time finding his voting precinct: he may have thought this would make him a more sympathetic public figure, but in reality he came off as impossibly clueless. His controversial agency's poster boy of ineffectivity.)

The "overall confusion" statement also offered the public more proof—as though more proof were needed—that Aquino, though nominally and by constitutional requirement non-partisan, is actually a high official of the Arroyo administration. In the last couple of years, this administration's high officials have developed a traditional mind reflexive response to any and all forms of criticism: It blames the victim. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is the administration's favorite server in this sense, blaming the much-loved Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell, to give only the most egregious example, for her own murder.

Consider Aquino' words: "Many wanted to vote ahead"—as though there excess of civic zeal were something new (when in fact in every election Filipinos rearrange to the polls as soon as the precincts open), as though it was the voters' fault why they couldn't find their precinct assignments or why the Comelec failed—utterly, shamelessly—to purge the voters' roll, as it had promised. "The assumption behind Ahales' remarkable lament—that by noon or so "the tension will ease off"—has a similar blame the victim character. It is the voters, the citizens who are fighting for their right to vote, who are by Ahales' dark, counter-democratic mind the cause, the very source, of tension.

Sadly for our democratic project, the Ahales Comelec's disorderliness did not stop there; in mid-morning of election day. In fact, it did not even begin there.

When Inquirer reporter Nikko Dizon broke the story about suspicious persons caught copying down the serial numbers and other identification marks of election forms in the printing press, Ahales belittled the breach, calling it a mere incident with no possible impact on the elections.

When an office of the Comelec learned down, under rather strange circumstances, the Ahales Comelec immediately called the damage inconsequential, of no moment to the mid-term elections. Sir reports permit, to this day, that much of the data in the purged voters' list was contained in the fire.

When ABS-CBN's Ricky Carandang reported that official election returns—ostensibly blank, completely undomestic and already for sale to the highest bidder—had turned up in certain parts of Mindanao, the Ahales Comelec instead a blanket denial.

When extra copies of official election returns and other election documents surfaced, after the counting of votes had started, Ahales ordered a probe, but also denied any possibility that the extra copies may be misused in the actual canvass.

Yesterday, the commission sitting as National Board of Canvassers found that as much as 130,000 votes had been deemed off the total tally of opposition candidates Sen. Cayetano and Gibi Gonzalez, from only one province. And on election day itself, 18 persons were reported killed in poll violence.

Yet Ahales has the gall to declare himself and a Comelec damaged by the Garci scandal completely vindicated. Shameless, utterly shameless.

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Waiting for the election results

SEPARATE OPINION

Bagman A. Cruz

ONE OF THE SERIOUS AND CHRONIC problems of our elections is the intolerable delay in disseminating their final results. It takes many endless days and sometimes even weeks to definitely know the winners in the presidential and senatorial polls. In the interim, the rival candidates and their followers, the media, the military and the clerks in a down-size rather small government agencies that may lead to more serious complications.

In the 2004 senatorial elections, the 12th position was closely contested between Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Sen. Robert Barbers for some tentative and unofficial data for nearly 5 weeks before the question was finally settled in favor of Biazon. Needless to say, during the disappointed Barbers poured every technical offensive possible aggravated by the tension created by the delay.

I know that comparison is odious, but I can't help observing that elections are faster than rain even in some of our more neighborly, home years: in a Tunisian Magnificent seventies from India-populated have their votes easily release the election results in his country within hours after the voting despite the size of their population and the wide expanse of their territory. The process seemed even simple and economical that I scrutinized why our government had not adopted it here. Instead, the Commission on Elections insisted anything that digital pure base of those machine voting machines were coming or unmindful public expense.

The reason, of course, appears to signal the speedy conduct of elections is the inherent Filipino mentality with more efficient technology than ours. The obvious example is the United States, where the presidential election results are announced in early as on the night of Election Day itself. The United States has more than 221 million voters distributed over its 50 states and Washington, D.C. But they are informed of the winners in their respective states hours of the closing of the voting hours.

Our territory and our 65 million population can be accommodated in California or Texas, but our 45 million registered voters are still waiting for the final results of the elections held last Monday.

The Philippines is an archipelago with more than 7,000 islands, some of them small but no less entitled to representation than the rest of the country. Many separate areas are not easily reached because of inadequate means of communication and transportation. Interest in the hotels of customers of relevant election paraphernalia after the elections, like the voters' lists, election returns and other documents, as well as the ballot boxes and their contents, will involve considerable delay.

The results of the national elections cannot be officially determined unless all the votes are received and accounted for in all the 300,111 precincts throughout the country as a possible consequence of which hundreds can easily produce the ultimate cause.

But these physical difficulties are only part of the problem. The bigger bulk is man-made and generally criminal—the flaws that have occasioned the legitimacy of Philippine elections. Since we became a republic in 1946, there has never been an election in the country that was not marked with the most infamous reasons that have weakened the body politic and its right to an honest and competent government.

Among the evils that have plagued our elections are vote-buying, snatching of ballot boxes, falsification of election returns, political dynasties, murder and kidnapping of political rivals, enemies of religious support, maltreatment of public funds for personal purposes, preservation of government courts, disbandment of opposition rallies, the increase of corruption implements, and narco-international checkpoints, add these to the delay in revealing the true color of the ballot, and the subsidiaries it complete.

Let me voice this last comment about the worst electoral culprit of all—the Commission on Elections.

The open portfolio of the constitutional agency for the present administration is undemocratic and undesirable. This lawless attitude is best evidenced by its frustrated functioning through an altered misapplication of the rule of plurality. Most Filipino voters know by now how the election becomes of its character. There are other particular cases that debase an overall mission to enforce and uphold the citizens' basic rights to discrimination of preferences.

We are entitled as a representative government to public officials chosen by the majority—citizens' through the instrument of the ballot. It is tragic that we remain captive to the control of scoundrels who have used the right to vote for their selfish advancement rather than the strengthening of our democracy.

The abduction of Carol Castañeda Jimenez

GET REAL

Sedfrey Calleja-Monreal

I HAD THOUGHT THAT *MY MONDAY* abduction, in broad daylight at the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City, showed a subtract in a more outrageous display of power than the abduction of Carol Castañeda Jimenez more than in the dusk—and the perpetrators were civilians. She, too, was abducted in broad daylight, inside the Tuscany, one of Makati's exclusive condominiums. In the Burgos case, the military is denying that soldiers did it, and we don't know where he is. In the Jimenez case, the perpetrators, Mark Jimenez (MJ), also known as Mario Crespo, Carol's long time companion, not only admits doing it, but we know exactly where she is—her everyday normal habitat in the lair of MJ's playing his and house with the law.

Only consider.

First, Judge Amelia Rimalmoan issued a Temporary Protection Order, upon the petition of Carol, ordering MJ to stay away from her house, to desist from committing or threatening to commit acts of violence against her and others named, not to contact or communicate with her or keep at least a 200-meter distance between him and her or their son, and not to cause professional counseling for anger control. MJ violated all of the above orders with utmost threat. All this, with a warning: "**Violation of this order is punishable by law.**" MJ refused to leave Lourdes, and when she left the place because she wanted away from him, he refused to allow her to take her clothes, or her car.

Second, he caused the abduction of Carol (which is obviously an act of violence and is expressly prohibited by Rimalmoan order). Then by his own admission in a television interview where he said he caused Carol to be detained in a drug rehabilitation center (Silverstone Foundation). Why? He was "saving" his "wife."

Did he get a court order that gave him the authority to have her committed? No. All he had, according to Carol's sister from Hawaii, was in her petition for the treatment of a case of habeas corpus against MJ, not an application for Voluntary Confinement which he signed as Carol's husband. This, according to him, he has the right to do. But because he is not Carol's husband, and second because the Temporary Protection Order forbidding him to have Carol's is still in effect. This application, according to Rose, was given a first confinement by some lawyer in the Judgment Drug Board Center. The requested document is unable to reveal the consent or knowledge of the head of the legal division.

Third, on the same day that Carol was abducted, Judge Lourdes Feldmann issued an order requiring "the SWAT Team and/or any barangay members or officials ... to immediately escort Carol to a Rhinestone Foundation. By subpoena to this two SWAT Teams were deployed—but it seems these elite teams were incapable to be locked into of television. They did not want to break down. Carol remains unrescued.

Before we go to the last example of the ways in which MJ was to release detailed his arrest as officers of the law and the courts, a question should be answered: how could Carol have been abducted from the Tuscany without its security people putting up a fight? The question can answer to the security office by Lito Limbaugh. Carol's sister (she and Rose were with Carol when the abduction took place, who is a resident of Tuscany, and whose eyes for help were ignored by the security guard, even as Carol was being dragged from the elevator, kicking and screaming).

The answer given by the security guards: they had been assured that no abduction might take place, but not to intervene, because it would involve a drug addict who might be wearing amongst to apprehend her confining him to a rehabilitation. Who confirmed them? Ed Jarad, a Lebanese American who is head of the homeowners' association of the Tuscany. What does Jarad have to do with the whole thing? Well, he is supposed to be the neighbor of Diana Crespo, who is part-owner of Silverstone Foundation, and who is allegedly a classmate of MJ, and who is a resident of Tuscany.

But we can see how for the first MJ has presented in the story of "Petition for Commitment of Insane Person"—namely, Carol. There is no medical certificate to this effect, it seems to be all MJ's allegation. Then Diana (one who never holds was advised by affidavit by the confinement and neither signatory) him nominated in the writings of the lines of Ruby Romualdez, Max Soliven, Manolo Villanueva, Julio Lahoz, Inquirer Gral, Letty Magsaysay, also in another Madam Kingdom. It wasn't only Carol that was affected by these "nicknames" and "unconventional pronouns," but his children were also telling of peace from him, another become an alcoholic, a third is under treated as hallucinations—and yes, MJ himself. But significantly it was only Carol who suffered "symptoms like hers," and she has to be considered "legally insane"—the only one she can say to a temporary and permanent protection order against him!

According to Rose and lawyer Lotte Espanto, there is no danger that Carol may do if she is not given her medication, which she needs to prevent epilepsy. She outlawed control by lack of symptoms like those caused by stress. It is this medication that MJ considers to be the "drugs" that she is addicted to.

Who is insane?

Business names floated for 2010

THE CRIMSONS OF SOTS IN LAST MONday's function is not over halfway in some areas, but already speculations are bubbling up about the presidential race in 2010. Media noted how fast Mar Roxas, who was not up for reelection, announced his "Mr. Palengke" ad on TV during the campaign period; many people saw it as a way to introduce his very young wife Korina. There too, verbal balloon was floated by the opposition about a Jinggoy Estrada presidency, while Mayor Alfie Binay, majority over his immediate electorate by over 100,000 votes, has been in the news for his many media interviews. Still, the election is much to his mind. My reaction to these sets my pendulum ambivalent, however helpful.

There there's Her Presidente Noli de Castro, who is a nice breather away from the pressures. Then, of course, Malacañang has never been away from the mind of Cayetano Legarda and Manuel Villar, who are now reported to fight each other for the Senate presidency next June. Then, there's Gloria, who is now in interesting neighbor-senator Francis Escudero, seeing to the huge possibility he would contract Legarda to be top ace.

• • •

But what has not been reported is that many business people have lately been eyeing the presidency for one of their own. During a dinner at the residence of guru Washington Sycip a few months ago, the name of Henry Sy Coson was reportedly discussed as the prospect of fielding James Maguire Gabel de Ayala, and observers noted that he recently kept smiling every Oliver Stone Christmas Party. Then, there's the name of Bobby FLEY's top favorite chicory Dan Gillmor.

The business sector is obviously fed up with the politicians and is prospect to capture the presidency for one of their own. During a dinner, given the decades-old dominance of politicos in the political arena. The sector may could be through the parliamentary system, a la Malcolm Tullenbruck in Britain, where in that system the executives would themselves have to push for Charter change, which they resisted fervently last year. Are they ready to change their wand now?

• • •

Speaking of business, one can't help but realize

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassman

that there are actually two Philippines. One is that of business, which is making headway and attracting foreign investments due to bold economic reforms, the other is that of politics, which remains chaotic and highly divisive. Sends historian Emilio Aguinaldo, "The Philippines is a neighborhood, has learned to fight with an investment of $1 billion and a target of 10,000 jobs. There remains ago. Texas Instruments, the world's largest maker of chips for cellphones and wireless devices in connection to construct a new $1 billion facility in Clark Freeport, in addition to its Baguio plant. The other day JP Morgan, one of the world's largest financial services firms, resumed to BP of its an investment of 10 years.

Sadly many of this Monday's voters couldn't appreciate all these progress on the economic front, as the political BS remains unfit to it. It's about time its economics a new $1 billion facility investment program could be sustained.

• • •

Bataan Bishop Socrates Villegas used a common lot of his pulpit in his dinner complained about the massive vote buying and the development of policies in the province. Few would dispute these allegations, but on that very every other an evening flyer pulled in the same direct other fingers point back to the senators. It all boils down to resident voters, but how should leaders have to assume a large part of the blame as owners of these areas? Are they pulpits and trying to rate the President with. In many places, they failed to inculcate the right values among the people. Many voters no longer regard corruption as a heinous sin, thinking its detection as violations of the 7th commandment.

• • •

It is possible for Magsaysaysan, one of the leaders in Eastern Samar, to have chosen to run (2-1) in favor of Team Unity? I was told the former president of PCCI, Donald Dee, and he said, absolutely. Dee said he goes every opposite as he has a business there, and he convinces people there appears politically that he would be up. He was apparently made or a meeting last March, where the political leaders decided on the line up: they would back up; that election was passed on to date for losers, including Senator Loi Ejercito in the all-up, but that's the reality there. It's also relevant to note that in the 27 municipalities there were no opposition candidates, hence, as it dared Bay-ya-Hilot said, the appearance has no meaning.

• • •

I recall talking to former Sen. John Osmeña a few elections ago, when he was still in the House, and he told me that the reason why there were so many candidates was because "nobody wants to be a 'failure of election' in the Lamao area. This time the politically aggrandizement the elections in some places there, owing to some irregularities. Sometimes, I wonder why we have elections at all, when the result of the vote is already known before the voting is even conducted. And I completely agreed with him that some local leaders there were already using it as a fund-raising activity among senators in candidates who are on the "slate to win" in the elections, which is usually determined only by slim margins. The manipulators decide who get into the Magic 12 and who are dropped.

• • •

In the lunch hosted yesterday by Speaker Jose de Venecia for outgoing Chinese Ambassador Li Jiaxin, I asked US Ambassador Kristie Kenney if she knows the reason why Chinese President Hu Jintao has been so quiet during the election body there, owing to some technical trouble with the automated machines; was he point out that those installed voters were merely machines and the counting of votes are merely algorithms? Kristie says we enjoy the Lunar's model and we so enjoy this election very much, so that it breaks the local leaders' predilection for using "failed elections" as a strong industry. If the people of Luzon are threatened with being disenfranchised, maybe they will shape up and prevent the "regular" irregularity.

Still going strong

MY GRAND GRANDFATHER HAS THE MOST COMMON OF names, Juan. When Pepe (that's what he is to his family) turns 100 this June, his longevity will again dominate the front entertainment in his party, as it did when we celebrated his 100th birthday. Somehow, there are no things about me that can inspire estimated chat as much as he age.

The 99-year pop that organizes him and his tiny family messenger result in:

Question: Still, I'm sure I have enough about Pepe from all of the stories I've heard about him from others, members of the clan. So they say what really characterizes it not so much how long one lives as how one has lived.

YOUNG BLOOD

Isabel Antonio F. Aguinaldo

We want to know what life young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? For inclusion contributions from the community and ballot —Ed.

Ariel Trinidad Hernandez was born in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija on June 4, 1921—the fourth child of seven children—in a very poor family. To support his siblings through their schooling, Papa quit school and tilled a farm until each one of them finished high school. As a result, he got his high school diploma only after his youngest sibling got his. Meanwhile, he developed many skills and jobs to make ends meet. He worked as an auto-mechanic in his early 20s, he was a farmer, but trader, barber, shoemaker and tailor all rolled into one. Papa was when my grandfather called the commissariat craftsman, because he plied his trades with exceptional skill and with his help he was able to build his own house. He was also the first to own a radio in the community were as him for him in fashion (before there was it, I am told). Public officials and the rich sought him for the barber's chair. My cousins said I marvel at no fee of how Papa would begin making a crazily and handsome pair of shoes as was to do the cutting, which he then proceed to the shoe-shop, complete and ready-to-wear in their 12 hours later.

He had a steady income throughout his active working years—although they floated in slowly and in small amounts. There's why he labored twice as hard to sustain his family and send all the seven children to school. But he never refused to help those in need. Many times, he would not be paid for his services because of his generosity. He knew that times when relatives would stay in his house for months on end, entering his generosity. Because of his financial obligations, Papa was able to acquire only two small tracts of land in his entire life. Because he was completely honest in all his dealings and all his hard work, he never had to worry about his family's financial out of it. A rich man once told to him a property of his through shrewd legal means. Papa told all his children that he would defend his property with his life, and he made sure the rich man got the message. Papa was left in peaceful possession of the land.

As mentioned earlier, Papa was a barber as first manager of an electric cooperative where he refused, with good reasons, to be a subscriber. Late one night—a drunken manager came up to Papa's house and threw insults at the door. Despite his sudden fame, Papa came out of his house, a sharp shoemaking tool in hand, and dared the man to a fight. Neighborhood intervened, and the relieved bully apologized publicly to Papa.

Any person who has lived as long as Papa cannot be a stranger to tragedy. Three his house was burned down (in the days pre-brownouts, without meaning). But every time, he would rebuild his house. Even when he was already in his 90s, he also was a one to timber father, and according to the grandfather, it was that only time he saw Papa cry. Papa didn't shed a tear when his mother and his father, or even his wife, passed away. But when his son died in a most painful way, Papa sobbed for days.

Until not too long ago, Papa was much insistent on immensely enjoyed his favorite pastimes: reading (with a magnifying glass) the newspaper, answering math quizzes, being driven around and out of town, walking about his yard), and answering the many letters he received from us (which he appreciated, but at times, ill-pressed). Now he is bedridden and all would have a good time with him because of his sense of humor and remarkable memory, he was a walking history book, he could entertain anyone with stories about his adventures, his past involved people who lived in the area.

Papa's health began to deteriorate when he turned 95. At 97, he was thinking of having iron implanted in his eyes. He was hesitant about undergoing the procedure, but was for the lessons people would suggest. Being the thrifty man he is, he asked the ophthalmologists in a serious tone if the eye implants would last at least 10 years. Why, you may wonder, would he need such a procedure? He wanted to live "even if in order to beat the record set by another man in town, who lived to 103. Alas, after recovering from the removal of his two bone with pneumonia and again feeling very healthy, he is now looking to reach 120! Of course, he has the extra years for that.

Another 10 years seems unrealistic if he follows his own health advice. During his 100th birthday party, asked what advice he could give to those who wished to live as long as he. Pepe brought the house down with his reply: "Pagdating mo ng 90, huwag ka nang magpa-medida (upon reaching 90, don't have any more medical check-ups)."

Papa has been given several awards—for longevity, any penship, charity, etc.—by the Nueva Ecija High School of Cabanatuan City (where he graduated in 1936), the municipal government of San Jose, Nueva Ecija (his adopted town), and also the Knights of Columbus. But the award he cherishes the most is the one given to him by ordinary folks, along with many more photos of his descendants. I'm sure that he has at least one picture of each of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren there. There, too, is a frame-by-frame of himself in the company of Cory Aquino, the "mother of democracy" to the grandmother. Alongside are other cherished pictures of relatives one with a chief justice of the Supreme Court, of a granddaughter and her husband with a president of the Philippines, and of a grandson as a public servant with no less prominence. No statesmen unspoiled by material longings, time-honored values and loving family ties. Papa has lived a long life that was used during his 100th birthday celebration and with these words: "Juan Trinidad Pantaleon—A journey of a hundred years." The step says it all, I think.

Angie Dapo is the oldest living Filipino today! I don't know and I don't care. The longevity is not as much of a feat celebrated as the support and love he has received and continuously given to his family. He earns life to see bonds of trauma on the value of hard work, humility, courage and integrity that set his great grandchildren, will draw from, as the rare patterns before us and their parents before them. I like to think that Papa's life is a testament to the many lives of those who are present who has dedicated as much of his life to serving others deserves some more notice for himself.

Isabel Antonio F. Aguinaldo, 18, is an incoming junior at Saint Theodora School.

Visit to Batanes

AT LARGE

Elena Hernandez-Davidson

their today, can boast to endless deed.

As our entry to access for restroom privileges, a small but perfect stop a native their guests each of us with a shaved and curious "mabuhay" Filipino made of the traits a treasure including up a large batch of fish, and when we ask why this is cooking so much, she explains that they are preparing for the visit of a congressmen and his party. Many of the household are related to the mayor, approaches her, saying: "Ihaw lanka decisions, ihaw 3 kami sama." Written question, the busy room hands her a plate of fruit fish as well as a bottle of gatas, which, before they may smuggle in with the advent of modern treasure, was the traditional Batanes staple.

So we are about to depart on our way, the mayor and the household and the entire family guide packets of food wrapped in banana leaves more of the fried fish and gabi and even some bananas.

We started not just as their generosity, but also as their hospitality nature. Would are do the same when we get home to the city, my wonderful, likeable group of strangers come knocking on our doors asking to use our bathroom, when suddenly we realized that the bathrooms of the lunch we were cooking, would we treat them with the same brand of hospitality? All of us embarrass heads our heads, laughing.

• • •

Jeff were in for even more traditional Batanes hospitality the next day, as we paid a visit to the Head homestead in Tukon, a hour-to up high in the Batanes mountains.

The views that greeted us as we drove up the winding roads seemed straight out of post-cards. Rows upon rows of forested or even terraces as

some of as imagined them. "Vanderson Head," the same place as the home-turned museum of the late artist Pedro Head, stood off to itself in a prominent overlooking a windswept landscape. Down the road, and nestled in the valley of a small settlement, was the house of Rolando and Nina Head, while in the center of the property was a room to lands on which two weighted figures were seated, Batanes-style, in a quiet, pensive mood.

As we neared the Head home—a home inspired by the traditional Ivatan stone house but blending as well with warm Mediterranean colors—Nina Head stood, greeting us with warm smiles. Nina Head stood, greeting us with warm hugs and huge smiles. Their home, she explains, is a "labor of love," while the trees out in front as well as the charming wooden gate were a "this is all of Batanes" contribution to their home.

Batch Head, if you must know, is the former education secretary who with other cabinet colleagues resigned as a result of the "Hello Garci" controversy. Many of us in the "Hello Garci" generation have often wondered what he joined the defense cabinet but he many reasons he's decided not to run for a second term. The couple are now our old friends from back, as we're meeting Nina was also a dental woman in town.

• • •

OVER LUNCH (that included sweetness crabs and vegetables), Rolando, Nina, Vanessa and Jeff, Batanes Head-love and homemaking ago. We're even taken on a tour of the rest of the house, including the children's bedrooms downstairs and the backyard, planted to carabao Mountain and badges and overlooking a chicken coop where of mercenaries and rest.

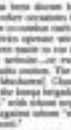
"When's our turn for a cow like that?" I ask of no one in particular. It was another and easy—but if we would have two cows, and if only her children didn't need their company, she and Batch would choose to stay in Batanes full-time.

The trip on a beach with Elena, talking to the people and the landscape, and with Batanes was known other the streets. Batanes is indeed a paradise, but it's the people as much as the sights that make it so.

Musharraf's minions of terror

WORLD VIEW

Perves Bodbhoy



AFTER SIX ILL-ADVISED DEMARSAL OF THE chief justice of Pakistan's Supreme Court ignited a firestorm of violent protests, the country's military-historical may to backing an Islamic fanatics to create chaos in the nation's capital, Islamabad. Many suspect that an engineered bloodbath that leads to martial rule—or, at the very least, the declaration of a national emergency, could serve as a pretext to postpone the October 2007 elections. This could make may for Musharraf's dictatorial rule to continue into its eighth year—and, perhaps, until he dies.

This perverse strategy sounds almost suicidal, but Musharraf, whom President George W. Bush describes as his "buddy" and supports as an "ally in the war on terror," has always had an eye for opportunities that most strategists of his background would overlook. He never was a conventional soldier, but a cautious manager, until

Strike the vote-sellers first

THE CHIEF THOUGHT THAT politics is the height of nobility. Perhaps they thought that one would be a martyr to have to uphold one's good intentions in the face of the evil-looming power.

But what happens to those who do not bend to the greed of party heads who sell their votes? What happens to the electoral process that's supposed to put the cream above under public scrutiny? The process has become an arena for the rich to buy their way to power and more riches and has become a holding war for votes. Who is to blame? more importantly, what is to be done?

Can we blame the poor for enjoying the one time they have—after every three years—the power to elect those who hold in their thrones the rest of the time? Can we blame the mothers who consequently struggle to feed her kids if she sells something that is of little or no consequence to her anyway? Can we blame the politicians, who despite his original good intentions in the face of the evil-looming power.

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In the bustle, jeepney drivers are not punished for letting passengers on or off in non-designated loading or unloading areas, it is the passengers who force the drivers to stop in the right places because otherwise the violator will be fined for it. If passengers disobey traffic signs, they suffer. Doesn't that make logical sense? (Drivers in Manila yield to the dictates of commuters.)

In this sense, we might be better served by punishing the non-seller than the two-buyer. It will offer this end more have a hard time proving the culpable of the buyer and the buyer of buyer-seller, if they could help it, politicians won't spend for elections, crash low to buy votes. How will this work? You tell your voter and his get caught and you will never be allowed to vote again.

The sad fact is, the majority of voters won't vote if there's no money involved. Cite one vote-buying and evidence that "cannot" vote. Deploy enough cops and spy for "vote-buying money" confiscated or buy food, etc., for the students and cops who will have to stay to and post it in public places.

If there is no vote-buying, only the "unemployed" voters will matter.

—JOHN YEE
johnsimonyee@gmail.com

Happy that young leaders like Alan are around

I WAS SURPRISED THE HIT FEB. days and was very surprised to find a lot of negative, even hostile opinions about Alan Peter Cayetano. In a nutshell, they perceive him as untutored who doesn't walk the talk, or has no evidence to prove his allegations, or is all for hit and run statements, and is full of cheap tricks.

But I getting old or what? I was thinking that, at 35, the same, son of pride and excellent, that I am still recognize a good thing when it comes my way. Having children, nephews and nieces and grandchildren, I am instead to choose to young people. I've always shared that's now that "the youth is the hope of the fatherland."

Cayetanos, Francis Escudero and Jackson Antonino-Custodio are all young people, daring and endowed and structured by wealth or exemption. They are still full of idealism and their love for the country shown in their relentless pursuit of the truth and fight against government corruption. During the impeachment trial of President Macapagal-Arroyo, they stirred overwhelming sentiments and disarming odds to fight for their beliefs. They gave their best to serve the people. They never let us down. Even through they knew there was from the practical viewpoint, a lost cause. They gallantly stood their ground in the face of the inside their elder and the unwarranted onslaughts in the House hotbed of facts.

How Cayetano have evidence? The overflowers from the Genesis back can be denied?, why does he insist the bank account cited? He is a lawyer, I think he will not jeopardize himself or his first 2 three 3 months in office. At this point, not all his evidence has been made public. Malacañang's allies have made sure of this. The wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow. I think we should give Cayetano the benefit of the doubt. There must be a reason for his presentation. Shouldn't we be happy that there are those who are brave enough to finalize the parents dispensation? It is not healthy that somebody rules for good 10 years. There must always be room for improvement. There must be justice even for people in high places.

Young people like Cayetano, Escudero and Antonino-Custodio, whatever may their side and secret in the thought that our country is in good hands, that our youth are indeed, as Rizal once there, the hope of the motherland.

Most powers to Cayetanos and company. Don't give up the fight. May his location happy has even existed.

—ELAN SILVA,
radiwork@yahoo.com

LETTERS

CPR not proper in heart attack

THE NEWS ITEM "SIXTY SEVEN a man's life" (Inquirer, 5/5/07) could be a way of encouraging people to train on CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation), appreciation and what to do during emergencies. I hope the Inquirer would continue covering the popular but sometimes neglected CPR is administered on a person having a heart attack. CPR is applied in cardiac arrest, not heart attack, cases.

In a heart attack, a person is fully conscious, has pain, may still breathe and his heart beats. In a cardiac arrest, the heart stops beating and breathing ceases. It is critically important as clarify this. Yet do not waste people attempting to perform chest compressions on someone having a heart attack. Sadly, this often happens. CPR can aggravate a heart attack and may even become the root cause of cardiac arrest and, worst, death.

Hey! also stress that it is important to learn how to administer CPR from an authorized source. After searching on Tv or reading in the media how CPR and other related rescue procedures are done, some people feel confident applying these procedures on someone having a heart or nursing. Such attempts often cause more injuries, delay in transporting the victim to a medical facility and aggravate the condition of the victim.

I hope the Inquirer can help in promoting CPR training and in preventing the spread of wrong information about this life-saving method.

—ERIC AVILADO
CPR Instructor
Philippine National Red Cross,
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Poverty offshoot of corruption

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE column of Raul C. Pangalangan entitled "The myth of the Catholic vote," (Inquirer, 4/20/07).

Poverty is not a consequence of high population growth, rather it is a consequence of huge governments feeds lost to graft and corruption. The wasted money could have been put to better use, such as for the construction of more houses, roads, bridges and other infrastructures, thereby providing more jobs and creating more job opportunities, especially in the countryside. Of course, we do this without need a strong political will which is for our elected "honorable" men and women to exercise.

Women should be told about the adverse effects of contraceptives. The women should be informed as the fillings method, is safe but should some sacrifice for both husband and wife, it may be a difficult choice for those who are used to instant gratification. Irresponsible parenthood, together with the attendant increase of poverty, heredity, misery and ills of society, etc., should be dramatized in the much enough the good example of their parents and leaders.

Basic Catholic teachings are not subject to narrow minded, and they are not meant to satisfy women's whims or their hedonistic and irresponsible desires.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15). Let's live our Christmas faith. If family and women are to be God's spokespersons, what a world of peace and prosperity we would have.

—CESINO A. ADARAY,
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What matters most in bar results

ON 1045 APRIL 11 COLUMN, FORmer Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban Jr. called to mind the supporters of the poor and the income for examinations, in the process, making the bar schools that "produced" them.

The column made me wonder whether we are passing too much premium on a law school's ability to produce bar topnotchers as a gauge of its performance. In fact, when a person weighs the list, does it necessarily follow that his law school is topnotch?

Not things first: my bar cell is all done who topped the bar examinations. In a lawyer who is an "ordinary" bar passer, I know it is arduous to handle the bar exams, much more so top three baseline to say, there is no question that those who top the bar exams are, they are well as the schools that produced them, deserve praise and awe.

What chagrin me off is that while emphasis is given on topnotchers, less attention is given to how a school's passing percentage is for the bar exams—which, I believe, should be the better, if not the accurate, way to determine a school's performance. When a person topnotches the bar, there is no dispute that the training and discipline he received from his alma mater played a role. However, it cannot also be denied that a person "personally predisposed" (and inherently better) has all the chances of topping the list, regardless of where he or she may graduate. Hence, the real test of a good law school is its ability to transform "ordinary" students into "outstanding" students—in practice") into elite examiners of the law. This can only be determined from the law school's passing percentage.

In fact, there are a lot of law schools in this country which can primarily contain a high passing percentages. Unfortunately they have no graduates for topnotch or no. Conversely, there are some law schools which, though they can't produce a bar topnotcher, but don't go even half of its bar examinees to pass the all-important bar exams. Putting more emphasis on the achievements of topnotchers tends to belittle the achievements of a greater number of candidates who "merely" passed the bar. On the other hand, focusing on the school's passing percentage gives the bar examinees the feeling of having contributed to their law school's honor.

The bottom line is this: equal emphasis should also be given to the law schools which consistently have high passing percentages so as not to take away their more realistic and meaningful achievements.

—GRACE AQUINO,
grace_217@yahoo.com

Too much

WHAT HAPPEN AL-GORE? I used to admire to Mahal what he was served a matter of unpremise last May 4 by the Inquirer one of the Interior and Local Government was asserting that my power would do, if harassed.

I am to understand that the Arroyo administration is now a new law regard for the Filipino people that it failed to understand that value the Filipino people pass formulation—done at the wrong time, for the wrong reason.

I am not usually fan of not-selling down government actions, but in this one, the administration is going too far. Too much.

—JOSE CENDAÑA,
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THE WOMAN BEHIND THE SCANDAL: Mystery reportedly surrounds the personal life of Shaha Riza, the woman that cost Wolfowitz his job. >>

NEVERTHELESS SCANDAL that rocked the 185-nation World Bank underwhich she resignation effective June 30 of its president Paul Wolfowitz. >>

RP stocks surge to highest level ...

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our stock market. We are edified by the confidence shown by our financial market and investors in our ability to surmount the many challenges that usually exist in any economy. Our journey is on pace, stability and progress is unimpeded," the President said in a statement.

At investors ignored Wall Street's retreat and focused on the domestic economy, the main index added 21.49 points or 0.82 percent Friday to close at a new record high of 2,649.18.

"A confluence of favorable developments helped the PSEi set a new record and I am confident that the momentum will support our market as it blazes new stock market trails. The positive developments include improvements in government's fiscal position, falling interest and inflation rates and, finally, a weaker peso," PSE president Francis Lim said.

Lim said the market's record-breaking performance came on the heels of the relatively passive elections held last May 14.

'Peace dividend'

"I believe that the market range experienced over years prior, derived from the elections which the market viewed to be relatively peaceful," Lim said.

"All this helped ensure level of confidence of investors in the market and explained why more and more investors are investing their money in our markets characterized by higher turnover," Lim added.

The main index traded yesterday between 2,627.93 and 2,649.80. It was the third straight session that the key index posted a new record high.

The broader all-share index jumped 17.88 points or 2,200.25.

There were 62 gainers and 40 losers with 67 unchanged.

A total of 5.1 billion shares worth P9.7 billion were traded yesterday, up from 4.1 billion shares worth P4.01 billion.

Peso at 6-year high

For the week to May 18, the composite index rose 84.57 points or by 2.31 percent to 3,149.18. Average daily turnover this week rose to 3.68 billion shares worth P6.35 billion from 3.53 billion shares worth P4.32 billion the previous week.

At the spot currency market, the peso rallied to 46.61 against the dollar Friday, a new six-year high, after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said Thursday that foreign portfolio investments in April rose 68 percent from a month earlier to $245.1 million.

Morako shares

Among interest in Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) catapulted the market's momentum. The power distribution firm was the second biggest gainer for the day.

Meralco's shares, which only Wednesday rose by more than 6 percent or P9 to P67, by P3 shares, which are open to foreign investors, rose by 1.8 percent or P6 to P67.50. Meralco shares were also the second top traded issue yesterday with a total of 9,646,7 million worth of shares changing hands.

Apex Corp. gained P18 to P920.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) advanced P35 to P3,340.

San Miguel A class P1.50 to P0.50, but its B shares fell P2 to 90.

Traders said shares of Meralco soared amid speculation that the government would sell its stake in the utility firm.

Privatization

The government hopes to receive its multibillion-dollar power privatization plans and has said that it would remind the auction for the Masinloc coal-fired power plant on July 26.

Traders said investors' sentiment were also buoyed after the government said that it would limit its overseas and domestic borrowings next year to balance in budget.

"We continue to see the direction of the government in addressing the budget deficit," said Mandaue Lozano, a dealer at SB Equities Inc.

"The market will be poised to establish record highs in the next week," she said.

Investors should buy the Philippines' stocks given the bullish outlook of the economy and reasonable valuations, said Arthur Rodriguez, managing director of Emerging Markets Strategy at BOA Research, in a client note.

"Despite political hurdles as to investment, the economic case for a rapid revival is overwhelming," Rodriguez said.

'Very underinvested'

"The Philippine economy is very underinvested and the revival of capital spending will be the centerpiece of economic expansion in the year or two," he said.

Analysts said Friday that share prices could hit a new all-time high next week as a result of the generally peaceful midterm elections.

"We are trying to test the 2,400 level if the election counting would push through smoothly. It would go up higher by next week and maybe hit new all-time high," said Rommel Marquez of the First Metro Global Equities Inc.

Market analysts noted that the Philippine stock market has banked the dip in regional markets, reimbursing senses that the index may be poised to hit the 2,600 to 2,700 level by year-end.

"We expect the market to attempt to reach the all-time high given ... the positive sentiment, positive earnings, and healthier economy after the generally peaceful elections," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc.

The Philippines held its elections on Monday for half of its 24-seat Senate and 270 seats in the House of Representatives as well as for thousands of local positions.

Mostly peaceful

Although the count will from elections related violence has hit 126, the overall voting itself was peaceful in most of the country.

The counting of votes after last Monday's midterm elections continued with the opposition poised to gain control of the House, based on unofficial returns.

Mr. Arroyo's allies, however, are expected to keep their comfortable majority in the House of Representatives.

"The victory of the overwhelming majority of candidates sympathetic to the administration shows a vote for political stability and economic reform," Ms. Arroyo told an investor conference Thursday, referring to elections results but she House is well as local polls.

Gonzalo Sato, president of Gonzalo Puyat and Associates, said politics was taking a back seat for the moment.

Sato said that President's report pronouncement that all administration candidates dominated Congress was easing concerns of a revival of impeachment proceedings which could stall economic reforms.

"The perception is that the President said earlier that reforms will not be compromised by politics," Sato said. NIKO reports from AFP, Reuters and Michael Lim Ubac

A SINGLE GESTURE SAYS IT ALL: Investors remain bullish on the country's economic outlook. The Makati Stock Exchange closes Friday at its highest finish since stock market trading began here in 1927. MARIO

Shaha Riza 'very angry'

WASHINGTON—MYSTERY SURrounds Shaha Riza's personal life, by her design, say two things she's hotly denies. She is smart, exceptionally so, and angry.

"Very angry," Paul Wolfowitz said after recently. Wolfowitz lost his job as World Bank president Thursday over an ethical entanglement arising from his yearslong relationship with the former bank employee.

Riza, an Oxford-educated Arab-American who was born in Beirut, has worked for years for democratic change in the Middle East and for actual equality both in opposition societies and within the bank. She has done an issue of that now without thwarting enormous attention on herself.

"I simply do not know how to blow my own trumpet," she says.

Yet, in statements to World Bank officials, she says our fighting Wolfowitz over a promotion and pay raise for Riza, 42, was rooted in the State Department. She fell to avoid a conflict of interest but moved within the bank's period. The bank's ethics panel concluded she subsequently received salary increases at Wolfowitz's direction that were higher than allowed under bank rules.

Riza, hoisted at being forced to leave the bank in 2005, resigning her as senior communications officer for the Middle East and North Africa office. She did not report to Wolfowitz in any capacity and to limit reputation penalized her continued employment. "I felt under attack by a powerful group that had no right to make assumptions," she said in a statement to a special panel investigating Wolfowitz.

And she noted the "irony of my working to counter women's participation and rights through the work of the World Bank and to be then stripped of my own rights by this same institution."

Wolfowitz went as far as to suggest that the bank's ethics committee members put the same on him to arrange her outside employment because they were afraid to raise her.

They "did not want to deal with a very angry Mr. Riza," he wrote, in a letting statement of the panel's actions. "It would only be human nature for them to want to steer clear of her."

He hinted, too, that she was more not happy with him. He quoted her as telling the panel that he should have stood up for her rather than accepted an arrangement that moved her out of her job.

"Mr. Ibrahim then—sic—the bank," she told the panel, "and I had to fight very hard to get the same way I'm now heading for myself."

In her bank and academic work, Riza has promoted the link between freedom and freedom, reasoning that the fall of dictators in totalitarian countries in the Arab world and elsewhere would give rise to equality for women.

In that spirit, she organized a conference three years ago of Middle Eastern and North African democrats at which she and dedicated dissidents to "stand against bureaucracy" and she went to Iraq a year earlier to try to draw more women into the post-Saddam government.

The National Muslim and the Jewish community formed an informal consortium on the advancement of democracy and is personal one that fostered this decade, years after they had met while both were connected to the National Endowment for Democracy in the early 1990s.

Riza speaks Arabic, French, Italian, Turkish and English, and she majored in international relations at the London School of Economics and in social studies at Oxford. She is a graduate now.

After about a year at the State Department, Riza became a board member of the Foundation for the Future, a pro-democracy group financed in part by them. Since leaving the bank, her salaries—still covered by the institution—have risen to over $193,000 (or to 10,793,910 from those to $130,000 (or 6,006,800). AP

3 Pinays complete historic Everest traverse

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the South Side.

Nadia Wattenhofer, 27, Corina Dorenbos and Janet Belarmino, both 26, climbed up the North Side from Tibet and climbed down the South Side into Nepal and reached the summit in somewhat before 8 p.m. Manila time.

They are also the first Southeast Asian women to reach the summit.

It took them 16 hours (5:30 p.m. or 17,600 ft above sea level), a leap by Belarmino spoke first: "It was so hard. But we are determined and we are ready to go home."

Belarmino gave birth to her first son, Yonadan, just five months ago. She said throughout the climb, she was thinking of her baby boy.

"My baby is my inspiration. All I wanted to do was get up the mountain, get down safely again so I can go home and see my baby," said Belarmino, who had the added challenge of getting back into climbing shape to second time.

Doubly hard

"When it was her turn to speak, Wattenhofer said their feat was "challenging—mentally, physically and spiritually."

"It was very high and happy. We are now at base camp and celebrating with a large group of Filipinos," she said.

For the traditional celebratory hot chocolate, simple dinner for Everest "summiteers," the women feasted on luncheon meat, fried Filipino and pork and beans, she said.

Belarmino's father, Dionisio, was also at base camp to welcome his daughter.

The feat was doubly hard for Belarmino who suffered from severe mountain sickness and pulmonary edema—the leading cause of her delays in high altitudes.

"I was sick of many things. But I managed through prayers and the support. It was my teammates," she said.

An elated Dagupeño commented last time on the top of the world: "It was joyous. I can't explain it. My physical (at 29 Filipinos) flag and took pictures. I am proud and thanked the mountain gods for the opportunity to reach the summit. It was a blessing that the mountain allowed us to reach summit."

She added: "Never stop hoping. (The difficulties are there). But we got strong support from our friends, our teammates and each other."

Minister Mangudadatu was also elated when she heard about the three Filipino women who ended Mt. Everest, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on Thursday.

"The President is elated by the news of the three brave Filipino women mountaineers who have carved not only the Philippine flag at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) community with their inspiring achievement," Bunye said in a statement.

"Dibuenadas, Dagmalan and Belarmino are now at par with the toughest mountain climbers of the world," The Filipino people are moved by the climbers' sense of adventure, physical strength and endurance as well as the passion that led them to the top," he said.

Bunye also praised the private business sector for the day expedition leader Art Valdez and Wattenhofer, Dagmalan and Belarmino set the world record as the first women to conquer the two routes in Everest and the first Southeast Asian women to reach the summit.

Indonesian Clara Sumarwati was said to have reached the peak of Everest in 1996 but this has to disputed.

The three Filipinas were also the first women to reach the summit this climbing season. They beat out a Malaysian climbing on the South Side as well as a Korean female climber (on 4th time), who was ascending on the North Side.

A countryer of the two routes is considered a major accomplishment and has been described by one as a handful as Annapurna I in Nepal.

The first summer of Everest was a feat accomplished by 1953 (Edmund) and Tom Hazlehurst on May 29, 1953. Tibetan Mustang is the first woman to reach the summit from the North Side on May 25, 1975. Japanese Junko Tabei is the first woman to reach Everest from the South Side on May 16, 1975.

The women summit climb becomes their on the North Side of the mountain, considered the more difficult route with its colder temperature and gelling. They ended three steps which climbing more than 100 degree between 50 and 60 degrees.

Belarmino was the first to reach the summit on 6:30 a.m. Nepal time (11:30 a.m. in Manila) on Wednesday (that is 5:45 p.m. Manila time or 6:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m. in Manila).

Belarmino reached the summit three hours later after she had to fall in line behind other climbers.

After reaching the summit, they descended to the base camp on the South Side. While this is considered an easier route, the women were unfamiliar with the route. On the North Side, they had sun to assist their navigation while on the South Side, they were engulfed in snow with their frequent accumulations debris.

The Filipinas had to cope three inches down the Hillary Step, a 40-foot wall that elevated the route on the South Side. Another 1,000 climbers at 8,760 m or 28,740 ft above sea level. This is the most site for so-called "traffic jams" of climbers going up and down.

Final hurdle

Down the South Side, at the South Col around Camp 2 (6,500 m or 21,300 ft above sea level), the Filipinas had to carefully scan the route for the next step and narrow to labyrinthe.

Finally, the Khumbu icefall was the final hurdle. A large ever-moving glacier that covers the lower part of Everest's Khumbu Valley, it is full of pointed disks of ice and deep crevasses which are crossed only through aerial ladders. Three Sherpas lost their lives there last year.

The Filipinas were accompanied by Sherpas and also guided Lee Gracion and Dance Ermin to their historic climb to Everest last year. Gracion and Ermin are teammates of the women in the first Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (PMEE) team. With report from AFP

Wolfowitz quits, ending global ...

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tion package for Shaha Ali Riza, his companion, in 2005.

The resignation, effective June 30, brought a dramatic conclusion to two days of negotiations between Wolfowitz and the bank board after weeks of turmoil.

'In good faith'

"He assured us that he acted ethically and in good faith in what he believed were the best interests of the institution, and that he regrets that," said Pete Stavros, board's director on a statement issued Thursday night. "We also accept that others involved acted ethically and in good faith."

In the carefully negotiated statement, the bank board praised Wolfowitz's two years of service, particularly his work in arranging debt relief and pressing for more assistance to poor countries. They also noted his work in combating corruption, his signature issue.

Wolfowitz said he was grateful for the directors' decision and, referring to the bank's mission of helping the poor, added: "Now it is necessary to find a way to move forward. To do that I have resolved that it is in the best interests of those whom this institution serves for me to step down as its second president under new leadership."

'War' averted

Wolfowitz's negotiated departure averted what threatened to become a bitter rupture between the United States and its economic partners at an institution established after World War II that channels $22 billion in loans and grants a year to poor countries.

President Bush stalled in the day praised Wolfowitz at a news conference but signaled that the end was near by saying he regretted "that it's come to this." A White House spokesman, Tony Fratto, said in the morning: "We would have preferred that he stay at the bank, but the president ultimately accepts his decision."

Most important for the bank's future, many said Bush would soon propose a candidate to succeed Wolfowitz, quashing speculation that the United States would go along with an end to the custom, in effect since the 1940s, of the American president making the bank's president. New York Times News Service

2 South Korean climbers killed on Mt. Everest

KATHMANDU—TWO SOUTH Korean climbers were killed in a fall while trying to climb Mount Everest, Nepal's tourism ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry gave their names as Lee Hyun-ho, 34, and Oh Eun-sun, 37, and said they died on Wednesday on the difficult southeast face while climbing the world's highest mountain, which stands at 8,850 m.

Mount on May 16, a 62-year old Japanese climber was reported to have died shortly after summiting from the North side.

Eyewitnesses told reporters in Kathmandu Odawa, who was making his descent attempt, collapsed after taking a few steps on the descent.

At least 202 people are known to have died on the slopes of Mount Everest.

Nearly 2,000 people have climbed the mountain since it was first scaled by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary who first reached the peak of Everest with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay on May 29, 1953. Reuters

Across the NATION

Tension up in fraud-wracked areas

TENSION IS GRIPPING AREAS WHERE FRAUD is either delaying the counting or altering the results of the recent elections, prompting calls for government action and vigilance among poll watchers.

In Sultan Kudarat, government security forces cordoned off the town hall of Kalamansig and padlocked the election room after the town election officer was missing on Wednesday.

Fr. Charlie Arboleda, of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections - Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, said reelection aspirant Abdilla Tan declared victory in the town was delayed after the Commission on Elections failed to send a replacement for election officer Jimi Asmira who left for still unknown reasons.

"Supporters of politicians and residents are getting violent," said Arboleda.

Armed men tried to snatch the ballots yesterday but policemen got to the area.

Plans to transfer the counting to Isulan, Sultan Kudarat are held under suspicion.

Another scrum

In Shariff Kabunsuan province, armed men tried to set fire to the municipal hall of Buldon town, where election materials were kept, at about 11 p.m. Thursday.

Police Senior Supt. Constantino Ilot of the ARMM Inspectorate, said the fire was put out before it could spread.

Mlang said the target of the armed men were the election returns in the municipal hall.

He said residents think it was after the perpetrators were lost and wouldn't talk out of fear.

In Cotabato City, gubernatorial candidate Datu Bimbo of the Nacionalista People's Coalition protested the replacement of election officers in some towns of Shariff Kabunsuan where he claimed he was winning.

"What was suspiciously questionable," according to Mastura, is that the replacement election officer came from Maguindanao where Team Unity candidates took a 12-0 questioned victory.

Mastura said on Wednesday, a concept still turned over finished an election officer in Mlang. "I'm not sure why was he finished or was he kidnapped?" Mastura said.

Mastura said he has informed ARMM Comelec chief Rey Intalajan that "he has not stood neutral" in the election in this effect." Intalajan would not answer calls made to his mobile phone.

Clash in Isabela

In Santiago City, a policeman and a poll watcher were wounded yesterday when supporters of Mayor Amelita Navarro and Vice-Mayor Armando Tan clashed while the canvassing of votes was ongoing at the Adriano Abaya Memorial Coliseum here.

Police said the victims suffered head injuries and were treated at a nearby clinic.

The tension eased when Chief Insp. Jaime Ingcoral, Santiago City police group commanding officer, and Lt. Col. Lorelei Magbalosos, 86th Infantry Battalion commander, sent 50 policemen to the area.

Twenty members of the special weapons and tactics team were also sent to the site.

Fr. John Bacolodo, head of the city's Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), said the election inspectors failed to give copies of their certificates of canvass (COCs) to their group that were allegedly held by the canvassing board.

Bacolodo said his volunteers were also barred from entering the coliseum on Thursday night.

Tension started on Thursday night when three ballot boxes allegedly stuffed after three were missing for four days at the canvassing site.

Resignation

In Cagayan, three members of the province's board of canvassers resigned following a feud with the lawyer of Gov. Edgar Lara and Mayor Randolph Ting who enclosed facts of bias.

Michael Addle, chair of the Cagayan board of canvassers, and members, Amador Sese and Marcos Tuwaneng, said they were quitting because they "could no longer tong the frauds and false accusations" hurled against them by lawyer Levi to Bidipid, counsel of Lara and Ting.

The canvassing of votes at the Kalayaan Hall in Tuguegarao City stopped on Thursday after Bidipid thrusted at the board members who he accused of being biased.

Bidipid accused the board of not acting on his request to open the ballot boxes in Sta. Ana town for a recount due to what he called "manifest errors."

Suspicious ballot boxes

In Romblon, three ballot boxes that arrived in the province on election day were held by municipal groups for four days before they were declared fraud.

The provincial Comelec failed to explain what the boxes were for.

The ballot boxes came from the Comelec central office in Manila and were delivered at 11 a.m. on May 14 to San Agustin town, which was the drop-off point for all ballot boxes for the elections.

"We had a discussion with the candidates' lawyers about the ballot boxes. There were suspicions that they would be used for ballot switching as we guarded them," said Flores.

Two of the ballot boxes were supposedly for Calatrava and Alcantara town in Tablas island, while one was for San Jose in Carabao island.

The ballot boxes are now in the custody of the Comelec.

Flores also reported that Comelec officials asked to provide funds of at least six cents each copy of the COCs, as required by an agreement between Hundred and Comelec.

Some members were prevented from entering polling precincts.

Winning bet disqualified

In Dumaguete City, reports said the Comelec disqualified winning candidate Jocelyn D. Sy-Limkakeng as Negros Oriental's first congressional district over citizenship issues.

The Comelec second division issued a resolution on May 17 that would scrap the proclamation of Limkakeng. Sy was being a natural-born Filipino.

Limkakeng, incumbent governor of La Libertad town, is leading against candidates Jerome Pesos and Elmer Pesos.

The Comelec said Limkakeng was born a Chinese national because her father, John Ong Sy, had not yet acquired Filipino citizenship through naturalization proceedings at the time of her birth.

But Limkakeng told the Comelec that the Court of First Instance granted Sy's petition for naturalization on Sept. 22, 1959.

She said her father took his oath of allegiance as a naturalized Filipino citizen on Oct. 12, 1962. Limkakeng was born on Nov. 5, 1959. *Reports from Charlie C. Inducay, Edwin O. Fernandez and Josefina Medero, Inquirer Mindanao; Filamer Ynares-Santiago and Ernesto Golden, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Marchael C. Viñoly, jr., Contributor; and Alex Pal and Romy Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*

SHADOWY
A soldier keeps watch outside a classroom at the Holy Spirit Academy in Bangued, Abra, where ballot boxes from Tinag town were being kept in a province wracked by election violence and fraud.

Baguio poll staff found members of Lakas-CMD

BAGUIO CITY—TEACHERS CAN vacating ballots cast in the May 14 elections have been put on the spot by a pre-proclamation complaint that some of their have assumed poll duties without disclosing their membership with the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat (Lakas-CMD).

Belisario Bagsic Bay, Manila Domogan, Lakas Candidates think, led the congressional race with 40,000 votes against lawyer Mauricio Domogan (LP) with 38,000 votes for the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) count as of 8:29 a.m. Friday.

Molintas on Friday asked the Commission on Elections to investigate the poll conduct of members of election inspectors (BEI) citing irregularities from barangay officials that some found members had tampered with ballots in favor of Domogan.

He also asked the board to impound the ballot boxes pending investigation, but he was told by the board to seek a court injunction instead.

Atty. Prosecutor Benedicto Corsino, a member of the canvassing board, said the board was not in a position to hear the complaint.

"We are not prosecutors; the matters here... [are] I would like to go on record that [the city election] were run by BEI who were Lakas [members]," Molintas said.

Domogan said the election law is silent about members volunteers and teachers disclose their political affiliations when undertaking poll duties.

But he said the matter would be resolved in the 2010 presidential election when Comelec congressmen face the election process, and would consequently require law students to be deputized for poll duties.

"[The] malicious [report] is not even some but the party's. We are also victims here. We have accounts of fairies when members already made a mistake in favor of Molintas," Domogan said.

Molintas, as city councilor, said his supporters discovered the anomaly when one of the teachers submitted

AN ELEMENTARY school in Baguio had not this instruction board so slows easily voters where they should proceed to cast their ballots.

their certificate of canvass (COC) to the board.

There were also reports that some members of the BEI were not in their assigned precincts.

There are 1,000 voters in each precinct in the city.

Molintas lost to Domogan by 2,000 votes.

Domogan is the incumbent congressman of Baguio City and Benguet province.

Molintas is running for reelection as councilor in the city.

ROUNDUP

4 dead as jeep slams into truck

PEÑARANDA, Nueva Ecija—Four people were killed and 10 others were injured after a public utility jeep (PUJ) collided with a parked tractor-drawn truck and a private jeep at Barangay Bongao-Tamacuan afternoon, a police official said. SPO1 Isidro Sanchez, acting Peñaranda police chief, said a Tarlac-bound PUJ driven by Eleuterio Cecilio, was traveling at fast speed when it bumped into an unlighted dump truck. The impact crushed the truck forward and brought it into a collision with the private jeep. Two of the dead were identified as Jaime Villanueva and Benjamin Pineda. The latter's relatives were not notified as of 5 a.m. yesterday. Police will file charges against the PUJ driver.
Rimbo Bismonte Cuizon, Inquirer Southern Luzon

MILF backed 2 GO bets

SULTAN KUDARAT—Sultan Kudarat—Two Senate Opposition candidates were supported by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) because, the MILF said, they have clear programs for Mindanao. Gil Galido, MILF spokesperson, said candidates Loren Legarda and Chiz Escudero from similarly their platform of government for the peace process in Mindanao. "Peace talks with the MILF" were stated some of their programs.
Jonathan Mahaca, Inquirer Mindanao

Loren deplores treatment of teachers

CEBU—Senatorial candidate Loren Legarda yesterday bemoaned what she said was cruel and inconsiderate treatment of school teachers who served as poll clerks following reports that the teachers had to virtually beg for their compensation while senator-hopeful Red Reyes, on the other hand, praised the sanctity of the ballot. "They deserve not only our respect but also our gratitude because they serve beyond the call of duty and some at the risk of their lives," she said in a press statement.

Winner says win a vindication

DAGUPAN CITY—As Step City Mayor Leon Guerrero conceded defeat to his opponent Jose Montemayor, Montemayor said he felt that his victory at the polls was a vindication. The Commission on Elections early this year ruled that Montemayor was against Guerrero in the 2004 elections but his order was never implemented as it was under appeal. But Guerrero, who was under the Nacionalista, said he accept not be running again for mayor. "The truth is the majority of the people in Step do not like me as 'mayor kasi'," Guerrero said yesterday even before the Comelec vote count was over. *Gerard Naval, Inquirer Visayas*

Abalos son-in-law stops count in Biñan

By Nita Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—AT LEAST 1,000 people with placards stopped at the municipal hall here as the Commission on Elections on Friday ordered the Board of Canvassers in the municipality to stop the canvassing.

The people, who were gathering in front of the municipal hall said they suspiciously were there and were not sure until when they would stay there.

Some of the placards said, "Ibilang ninyo ng tama ang pagkakaiba. Ang mong kabuyin ang kapit ng Biñan," and "Sana ay Biñan ngitan natin ang Biñan."

The order came after mayoral candidate Jose Rafael Yalos, son in law of the Comelec chair, filed a petition on Thursday to suspend the canvassing and declare a failure of election.

Yalos, in his petition, said around 80 percent of the voters were disenfranchised because of "several questionable events."

The petition said unidentified civilians announced the suspension of election before the opening of the precincts and during the prescribed voting.

The canvassing in Biñan stopped at noon.

The Batch Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in Biñan has tabulated 86 percent of the total IBs.

There parallel counts showed Yalos, with 35,604 votes trailing Marilyn Mercado with 29,781 votes.

Around 300 supporters of Abalos were conducting a vigil in protest of the suspension of the canvassing.

Emmanuel Macatta, campaign staffer of Abalos, said that there was no failure of elections.

He said the elections was "peaceful and successful" if on by the canvassing was not suspended.

BOHOL is speeding up efforts during itself in the forefront of development by improving its arterial road links. Photo shows the Bohol Circumferential Road at the Candijay-Jagna-Valencia section, a project of Bohol Gov. Erico B. Aumentado and triple-A contractor C.M. Pancho Construction.

ELEKSYON 2007

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INQUIRER Visayas

Tyro beats Espina patriarch in Biliran

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Naval, Biliran

THE PATRIARCH OF THE RULING ESPINA clan in Biliran suffered a stinging defeat in the hands of a political neophyte during the May 14 elections.

Gerardo S. Espina Sr., 72, had served three consecutive terms as congressman of the province's lone district from 1995 to 2004. In his last term, he served as chair of the powerful Commission on Appointments.

Espina tried to recover his press as a candidate of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) after a crossover term as mayor of the capital town of Naval. Instead, he was roundly beaten by an articulate lawyer who is two years older than his 56-year-old youngest child, Biliran Rep. Gerardo J. Espina Jr.

Lawyer Glenn A. Chong, 52, of the Liberal Party (LP), garnered a total of 26,087 votes while Espina got 20,356, for a winning margin of 5,741. He was proclaimed winner of the congressional contest by the provincial Commission on Elections on Wednesday afternoon.

Chong is the scion of a Chinese-Filipino family that runs a chain of business establishments, including a construction firm and the biggest grocery in Biliran.

An honor student during his elementary and high school years, Chong is also a certified public accountant. He graduated cum laude from the College of Law of the University of San Carlos in Cebu. As a law student, he had won prizes in moot and public speaking contests.

Espina Sr. was the only loser among the four Espina family members who ran for different positions.

HAIL! Mayor-elect Susan Visaygan-Porilla and Biliran Congressman-elect Glenn A. Chong (both at the center) with some of their supporters after Chong's proclamation last Wednesday

Only loser

Espina Sr. was the only loser among the four Espina family members who ran for different positions.

Dr. Rogelio J. Espina (Lakas-CMD), was re-elected governor with 42,897 votes, beating lawyer Esther G. Almedes of LP who garnered only 19,615.

The governor's twin brother, Rodolfo J. Espina, of Kampi was reelected mayor of Kawayan town. Their sister, Rosalyn Espina-Neria (Kampi) was reelected councilor of Naval.

Congressman Espina Jr. grew way in his father and sister not for any position.

Although only the patriarch lost in the election, the Espina family lost two politically strategic positions—congressman of Biliran and mayor of Naval.

The mayoral contest in Naval was won by Susan Visaygan-Porilla, widow of the late former Gov. Danilo Porilla who was assassinated in Cebu City last year. She won over Brigido Camejo II, a long-time Espina ally.

Porilla is the only child of former Naval Mayor Alfredo Solangon and former Board Member Catalina Visaygan.

The Espina dynasty was reluctantly sworn in their stale until September 7 last year. That day, former Governor Porilla, who nearly defeated Espina Sr. in the 2004 mayoral election, was killed by a known Espina underground as he was disembarking from a boat at the Cebu port.

The suspect, Gene Garpia, is now in jail. The case is now on trial at a Cebu court.

A murder sealed it

The murder enraged Biliranons from all walks of life and resulted a social movement that was determined to wrest the Espinas—the local version of the anti-Marcos movement in the wake of the Aquino assassination in 1983, but this time with better communication channels and facilities.

A nebulous group called the Kusog-ya, supported by volunteer efforts and sometimes busily and from expatriate Biliranons, started communicating with each other mostly through cellular phones, text messaging, and e-mails, blogs and websites in the Internet. They began to gather info and expose the alleged excesses, harsh lifestyles and corrupt practices of the Espinas.

The Kusog-ya members, mostly anonymous and known only by their aliases, poured out their sentiments related to the death of Porilla and later the decision of the Supreme in the blogs section of www.bilirunitednet.com, in the guestbook of the Hometown Naval website, and in the occasional issues of a newsletter, The Biliran Chatter.

Leader

Chong is a leader and mover of the group and a column writer in the Chatter. He was anchored, with three other members, an anti-Espina radio program in the local Radyo Bai in station and later on a Cebu radio station.

The information generated by the Kusog-ya, mainly from the lawyers, became fodder for the opposition candidates during their campaign rallies in barangays around the province. Most of the charges they raised were virtually ignored by the Espina camp.

Chong was instrumental and politicized by the Porilla assassination, and the made him decide to fight the Espina dynasty. The resolve was shared by many other Kusog-ya members.

He also assisted gathering data and documents that led to the filing of cases in the Ombudsman's Visayas against certain members of the Espina family. The cases included two against governor Espina—one for alleged overpricing of office armed hospital equipment and the other for an allegedly "ghost" hospital worth P20 million.

When the election season starts, Chong became the logical nominee of the local opposition as not for congressman, a challenge that he accepted. The rest is history.

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SEAR

By Cyrain Catuchua
Davongao, Samar

REBECCA TUSOMOC chose to become a housewife despite her

CONTINUED ON A12

TRIALS can bring out the worst or the best in people.

Some have disliked, lied and neither slung the way while others have the same accomplishments and some are envious.

Rebecca G. Tusomoc, 50, is one of the few persons who has faced life's many challenges and succeeded over obstacles. Married to a businessman and coming from a multi-gradual family herself, she chose to become a housewife despite her degrees from the University of the Philippines.

"I had a modest dream," she said. "All I wanted was to become a devoted wife and loving mother. I could never ask for more having a responsible husband and three darling children."

However, her dream was cut short when her husband got a serious illness that left him immobile for about 15 years till his death.

"My world suddenly turned upside down. With three children to raise and a husband in coma, I realized that life was not as endless hell, it was a nightmare," Tusomoc recalled.

For almost a year, she would not accept her husband's fate and she would not go to Church with a powerful desperation.

"I was bitter and I almost lost my faith in God," she said.

Rebecca says found her focus and resolve to thrive anyway further through Bishop Leonardo Medrano, her cousin Bishop Emerito of Catarman Angel Hobayan and her younger brother Fr. Agnesio Dandoy Jr.

"I had a real haven for their spiritual guidance. I assure I wouldn't have been able to recover."

Her inner strength, Rebecca says, helped her maintain her husband's life support system and finance her children's education.

"My heart was into teaching but I could not do so because I had to be with my kids and be at my husband's side," she says.

Rita Tusomoc started to step in home and manage her husband's hardware. Eventually, her resiliency and determination paid off.

She was able to send her three children to prestigious schools. In turn, her children made her proud by becoming honor students and scholars. Her daughter Sheila now works in a bank in Manila. Her second child Sidney manages their business. And her youngest son TJ is an associate dean at UP Diliman and is pursuing his MBA in Japan.

Rebecca's unwavering loyalty to her husband was also laudable. She could have given him up right away since he had to rely on a life support system, but she took care of him for 15 years till his last breath.

After her husband's death in 2000, Rebecca started joining religious and civic organizations so while away her time. What started as a pastime became an advocacy.

"Before I got started, I has always been my dream to be able to make a difference in my own little way given the chance and resources," she said.

Since then, Rebecca has espoused environmental causes, women empowerment, and spearheaded support system for victims of calamities.

"Some of her tasks so treasured and problems and her inspiring attitude to make a difference are her countless awards and plaques of appreciation both local and national.

She currently serves as president and adviser to the local chapter of Rotary Club, district of the Philippines and Davongao Chamber of Commerce.

Together with 13 other mothers throughout the Philippines, she recently received the Gloria, the award, a prestigious award given to outstanding Filipino Mothers of significant achievement in their field of endeavor.

Rebecca's son Sidney says his mom is a woman of strength and faith.

"What she went through as a wife and a mother was not easy," he says.

"Her unconditional love will never be measured by any material or other recognition, we will always be proud to claim that she's our mother," he adds.

La Salle five edges FEU; Jose Rizal U nips Letran

By Ronnina Acosta

LA SALLE FILED 10 EFFECTIVE FREE THROW shooting in the clutch to move closer to a quarterfinal slot after it edged the Eastern University, 82-76, yesterday in the UAAP-Rizal V Women's Basketball Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

Trailing most of the way, Fayette Ting and Elizabeth Acuña scored crucial buckets outside and all around the Green Archers to turn a 68-70 deficit with 2:46 left into a 74-70 lead with 1:48 left to play.

After the Taraweers missed twice from the three-point area and Rochelle Crevalaig muffed two free throws, JV Casas connected both his shots to increase the lead to 80-75.

La Salle pares Group B at 3-1 while #RE1 advanced to the finals to share games in Group A.

In the opening match, Irene Christopher (c) exploded with 20 points to lead Ateneo to an 82-76 victory over the University of the Philippines (Maya) to end Ateneo's 2-2 tallies (W-e-) assured winless in three tests.

Ateneo and Ateneo joined De La Salle on top of Group B, shaping past Hospital Help, 79-75, in the third game.

In the nightcap, Jose Rizal U nipped Letran, 77-76.

The Bulldogs scored their third win in four matches while handing the Altars a 2-2 record.

The scores:

First Game

Second Game

Ateneo (82) – Christopher 20, Ramos 12, Tolentino 10, Cabanero 8, Gonzalez 8, Arriola 5, Pascual 4, Abad 3, Jimenez 3, Ramos 2, Fortunato 2.

UP (76) – Gaviola 22, Cruz 13, Rivera 10, Mallari 10, Lopez 7, Ramos 6, De Jesus 4, Reyes 3, Gamboa 2, Abadilla 2, Rivera 2, Bautista 2, Rosales 2.

Quarters: 23-20, 45-40, 64-62, 82-76

Secondary

JOSE RIZAL (68) – Ong 14, Bautista 12, Cruz 11, Martinez 10, Lee 10, Villanueva 8, Cruz 7, Manglicmot 2, Tolentino 2, Jose 2, Cortez 2.

LETRAN (76) – Gaviola 20, Ong 14, Cruz 9, Lee 8, Bautista 7, Cruz 6, Manglicmot 5, Villanueva 2, Manglicmot 2, Cruz 2, Martinez 2, Mallari 2, Lee 2, Bautista 2.

Quarters: 17-21, 32-40, 52-56, 68-76

Third Game

DLSU (79) – Fernandez 24, Catacutan 9, Aquino 14, Adriano 8, Arbasa 7, Acuna 10, Manglicmot 3, Fortunato 2, Angeles 2, Wee 2, Christopher 2, Reyes 2, Lay 2, Bautista 2.

Quarters: 17-21, 32-40, 52-56, 68-76

Red Bull trashes Welcoat

Bulls greet return of Guiao with victory

CYRUS Baguio of Red Bull serves for a dunk against the defense of Welcoat's center Jay-R Reyes.

By Jane Nicanor

TOYOGUCHI MALA GUIAO HAS BEEN UNcrutchy long enough to know that the first three minutes are the most crucial.

And Red Bull, now back, notched those minutes by demolishing the Welcoat Dragons with an early onslaught, 14-0, last night in the 7th Nissin PBA Phone Cup.

The Bulls only needed four minutes to crush the Dragons with Jimmy Peters in the lead and finish up effort of Mike Hrabak, Cyrus Baguio and Eric Menk.

"I was worried because I was out of touch from coaching," said Guiao, who missed the Bulls' last seven games due to a uncontrolled inflammation condition for the vice governor's position in Pampanga.

But Guiao's presence on the bench somehow motivated his Bulls to score not more than eight from the opening

SEE PAGE 2

homers on the way to closing in on an unbeaten semifinal round.

Peters joined forces with Mike Hrabak and Cyrus Baguio in the first quarter as they scrimmaged for all but two of Red Bull's 20 points that allowed the Bulls to build a 13-point lead in the opening minutes.

The Bulldogs led by as much as 15 points after 15 games as Peters completely took over in the third period for a 77-61 Red Bull lead.

Peters had 31 points and 11 rebounds, Hrabak added 20 points and 11 rebounds, Baguio had 15 points and Menk chipped in with 10 points.

Welcoat's Jay-R Reyes had 18 points and Willie Miller added 26 as Alaska was dealt a late dose of calls by Pambansang to prevail, 104-92, in the second game.

The win pushed the Aces to 4-0 while the Bulls at second spot while the 7-1 Bombay shocked their 11th defeat against six.

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL (82) – Peters 31, Alvarez 11, Hrabak 11, Menk 10, Baguio 8, Reyes 6, Mallari 5, Bagtas 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2.

WELCOAT (68) – Miller 26, Reyes 18, Baguio 14, Bautista 10, Cruz 10, Mallari 10, Mallari 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2.

Quarters: 20-12, 40-30, 57-52, 82-68

Second Game

ALASKA (104) – Miller 26, Cruz 17, Reyes 15, Baguio 12, Bautista 10, Cruz 10, Mallari 10, Mallari 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2.

PAMBANSANG (92) – Mallari 21, Cruz 16, Reyes 14, Baguio 12, Bautista 10, Cruz 10, Mallari 10, Mallari 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2, Bautista 2, Mallari 2, Arellano 2.

Quarters: 20-12, 40-30, 57-52, 82-68

Secondary

Quarters: 20-12, 40-30, 57-52, 82-68

Realtors lead Jr PBA winners

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Family wounded in Quezon City ambush

Cops rule out robbery as motive in attack by armed men on motor bikes

QUEZON ARRESTED
Ronell Quizon, grandson of comedian Dolphy, is shown after his arrest by National Bureau of Investigation operatives yesterday. Quizon, who is now detained at the NBI headquarters in Manila, has been linked to the killing of Jeffrey Vergara. (Story on Page A12)

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A CHINESE FILIPINO BUSINESSman, his wife and their 4-year-old son were injured in an ambush by four men reportedly carrying assault rifles yesterday afternoon in Quezon City.

Quezon City Police District (QCPD) investigators counted at least 21 bullet holes that hit the white Nissan Patrol (UHR-666) driven by Julio Ilas Sua, 33, reportedly the owner of "Jo Julio Chu Electric Company, of Visayas Compound in Barra, Quezon City. Most of the bullet holes were found on the vehicle's windshield.

Though wounded, the victim was able to drive his wife Karen and son Julian, who were also hit, to the St. Luke's Medical Center on E. Rodriguez Avenue from Roosevelt Avenue.

Police reports showed that the attack happened at around 1 p.m. in front of Sua's office at 99 Roosevelt Avenue.

The victims' car had just come out of the office gate when four suspects on board two motorcycles opened fire. Sua managed to crash after being hit, said motorcycle driver-escort.

Karen reportedly sustained a wound in the head. Julio and his son were grazed by bullets.

Investigators ruled out robbery as a motive for the ambush, saying that if the suspects intended to rob the victims, they would not have shot at the vehicle as soon as it got out of the gate.

The QCPD has identified a lone lid for the four suspects, two of whom were aboard a red Kawasaki motorcycle, according to witnesses. None of the witnesses, however, was able to get the license plate of the suspects' getaway vehicles.

Brittany BEAUTIFUL

SUPNGUNDO

EJERCITO

AGUILAR

FERNANDO

SATCHALIAN

VILLAR

Metro Manila residents reelect incumbent mayors

By the Metro staff and volunteers

MAKATI: FERNANDO AND Joseph Pierre Ejercito, incumbent mayors of Marikina City and San Juan, respectively, were proclaimed mayoralty winners in the May 14 local elections.

Fernando, who was proclaimed winner at 7:40 p.m. Thursday, got 111,006 votes. Marlon Andres Martinez's candidacy turns in-valid 9,930,167 votes.

Ibid de Guzman, with 44,156 votes, edged out Romeo Cusumano of PMP with 39,339 votes.

Meanwhile Teodoro was elected representative of the city's lone district with 32,374 votes.

In the municipality of San Juan, Ejercito won by a landslide with 39,229 votes, based on the Commission on Elections' official tally for he was proclaimed at about 7 a.m. yesterday. In the same three independent candidates.

Incumbent Rep. Rodolfo Estrella, with 24,494 votes, trounced independent candidate Ericson Alcoseba.

In Valenzuela City, two of the four sons of Osmena Pilipinas businessmen and "Master's Ring" Billionaire Candidates were declared winners by the board of election canvassers.

Rexlon, who defeated city councilor Eddie Luzada, was proclaimed Thursday night as representative of the city's first district. Rexlon, who was seeking a second term as mayor, was declared winner yesterday morning over rival Rep. Jose Emmanuel "Bolet" Carlos.

Nevin, another Satchalian brother, lost to Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo Jr. in the race for representative of the city's second district. The fate of another son, Ernesto, a successor of the Arnik party-list group, had yet to be known.

The situation had been tense since Tuesday when the Satchalian were accused of cheating by the camp of Carlos.

The official Comelec tally showed Rexlon getting 82,323 votes, while Carlos had 76,4161.

Mayor "Bolet" Aguilar was proclaimed mayor of Las Piñas City Thursday after getting 55 percent of the votes. Aguilar's team, including his councilors and Vice Mayor Henry Medina also won, along with Rep. Cynthia Pilla.

In Muntinlupa, cheering supporters celebrated the winning of Genuine Opposition bets Jony Medina, mayor Jojo Sanchez, vice mayor; and Jaime Capuyan, representative. Last is the wife of DOJ unnamed candidate Allan Peter Cayetano.

ELEKSYON 2007

OBITUARIES

Yayoy says goodbye

UNEASY and somewhat familiar lyrics "Ulyanin" (Heaven) sounded sad yesterday. Ultimate shed at around 1:00 p.m. exactly the hour's after being brought to the hospital. A former member of the Pilipinas Dik, Pilipino music lyricist/composer and bandleader Jose Bolet and a local bassist for his Tagalog and Visayan comedy songs.

John M. Aurelio

'Kaya Cesar' signs off

VETERAN broadcaster Cesar "Kaya Cesar" Valiente, 89, passed away Thursday night due to cardiac arrest, said a friend. Valiente suffered his death. Kaya Cesar, of Cambulo, Pampanga, started two radio talks with drivers on Sundays. Those with his screening of his body on Monday at the ABS-CBN Broadcast Media Agency in Diliman.

Hernandez, 63

MARC Hernandez, 63, son of the late Commissioner of Customs Vicente Hernandez, died last night after a long battle with cancer. He was born on May 13 of cardiac arrest. He will be buried Sunday his parents at 2 p.m. today at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque. 6 Gil Garcia Street, Magallanes Street, Sucat.

Batangas incident: PNP chief doesn't care

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE BEHEADING OF A SCHOOL BUILDING in Batangas that killed a teacher and a pull watcher was one of the worst election-related incidents not only in the Philippines but in all democratic countries that hold elections.

What makes the incident even more shocking was that policemen, who were supposed to safeguard life and property, were allegedly the perpetrators.

After pointing to communist rebels as the culprits, the Philippine National Police (PNP) later admitted that its own members could be involved in the dastardly crime.

In a decent society like Japan, the police leadership would have resigned en masse over the incident, some of them even commit hara-kiri.

But our Interior General Oscar Calderon, the PNP chief, has dont see him feel sorry about the incident. You don't even know whether he gives a damn or not.

When he says about probably is whether or not President Macapagal-Arroyo will still winner him after that Batangas incident, which is most likely since they're close relatives.

Anyway, retirement is only a few months away.

Calderon is probably the PNP chief who is neither feared nor respected by subordinates, from what I heard.

He knows this, but he doesn't care at all what his underlings think about him.

Calderon lives from day to day as chief of a very inefficient police force.

* * *

Press-cutout politician Eddie Panlilio should shut up if he can't prove his allegations that Sir Oscar, Brod Boonzaier Alba "Baby" Pineda, commissioned fraud in the Sampaguita presidential race.

As of this writing, Panlilio had widened his lead over Perlilio, with the incumbent, Gov. Bindi Lagdi, coming in third. Panlilio was proclaimed the winner last night. Editor)

Panlilio should stop being a crybaby and admit that he lost in a fair fight. He is bashing up the wrong tree since Pineda is not the incumbent. I'm not saying Lagdi cheated, but the saying official usually has the capability to cheat because of power and machinery.

* * *

Pangasinan governor-elect Amado Espino Jnr. spent a long way from his days as an officer of the PNP.

It was a long, hard climb for the captor of Jose Burgos's Army chief-turn Brother Boonzaier, a.k.a. Boonzaier Pineda.

Espino left the PNP with a heavy heart during first few months of the Estrada administration. Things became even difficult for him as the service.

The 1974 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy was hardened with displeasure by newly elected President Erap on suspicion that he supported Angara rival in the 1998 presidential election, which he lost.

The suspicion was unfounded as Espino was just doing his job as then PNP chief of Region 1 that includes Pangasinan.

Espino's crisis in those days turned out to be his blessing.

If he hadn't left the service would he have become a successful politician?

BI inmate's shooting hit

By Julie M. Aurelio

FOREIGN DETAINEES IN CAMP DAGOHOY Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City yesterday condemned the shooting-incident involving a Fil-American inmate Thursday night, saying there was no need to kill him as the victim was unarmed and offered only token resistance.

Jason James Brandt was shot by a jail guard after he allegedly went amok around 9:30 p.m. in the Bureau of Immigration detention facility. "He is not the kind who would be violent," said Richard, "a male detainee.

Another detainee revealed that the victim, who was allegedly drunk, picked up a knife and began harassing the jail guards. Brandt was shot by duty guard Rolando Ramos after the victim allegedly tried to stab him.

Brandt sustained a gunshot wound on the right chest, in the stomach, and on the right hand. Inmates began throwing objects at the guards after guards fired in the evening after the shooting.

Supt. Romeo Perez, member of the Bureau of Immigration jail, said the four guards involved in the incident—Walter Bautista, Edmund Mateo, Donald Ily and Ramos—have already been relieved of their duties in the facility. He added that the shooting incident is still under investigation by authorities.

Dolphy's grandson nabbed for '06 slay

By Allison M. Lopez

A 24-YEAR-OLD GRANDSON OF comedy king Dolphy was arrested yesterday by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for the alleged killing of narcotic Tondo last year.

Russell Quizon and two companions were the subject of a warrant since the resulting incident on Dec. 6, 2006, that led to the death of Jeffrey Bergara, 25, of Pilipit Street, Tondo. Bergara died of multiple traumatic head injuries a day after being apparently hit with a foot bottle by Quizon.

The suspects were initially charged with murder in the Manila Regional Trial Court. It was later reduced to homicide. Its warrant was issued for his arrest on May 11.

NBI National Capital Region executive officer Rommel Bolivar said Quizon sought Wanted, son of Perdido Quizon, hiding in a store owned by a friend at midnight yesterday.

Quizon claimed Bergara's death was an accident. He said his group was passing by the victim's house when "we bumped" Bergara challenged him to a fight. Quizon said he only punched the victim, who could have hit his head on the pavement when he fell down.

With Delfin Bulreges Jr.

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For purposes of identification, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Conference Room, Sampaloc Hall, DA Compound, Malacañan Palace, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on May 28, 2007. Bids submitted after the scheduled time will not be accepted.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Rhonda P. Andrew at Tel. Nos. 833-50-34 and 833-39-92.

(Sgd.) ELMER C. ESPARAGOZA
Bids Chairman

ELEKSYON 2007

Hamas accused of plotting to assassinate Abbas

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK—Al-Aksa Martyrs Brigades militants in Jericho said Thursday they had foiled a plot by Hamas militants to assassinate Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, who is scheduled on Thursday to meet Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz in Jericho.

The plot was claimed hours after Abbas called off a trip to Gaza for talks aimed at reviving a defunct ceasefire between fighters from his Fatah party and Hamas that has left nearly 50 people dead and 130 wounded since Sunday.

"Abu Mazen's (Abbas's) visit to Gaza was canceled after the discovery of a tunnel under Salahuddin Road full of explosives placed by the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades to blow up (Abbas's) convoy," said a senior security official, referring to Hamas's military wing.

"The explosives were found in the route that Abu Mazen was to travel to Gaza," the source added, speaking from the Palestinian political capital of Ramallah in the West Bank.

An official in Abbas's office confirmed the report but Abu Obeida, spokesperson for the Hamas armed wing, told AFP: "these reports are aimed at poisoning the atmosphere in Gaza. We deny these completely."

Rabbo, a source close to Haniyeh told AFP that Abbas did not want to go to Gaza unless he could meet Hamas men already committed to the Mecca truce, which had already given rein to fighting.

As the Palestinian rivals were cowed, Israeli aircraft carried out four air strikes on Gaza, killing three people in retaliation for rockets being fired on Israel from the territory.

The first attack hit the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, killing one person and wounding 10. Barely two hours later, Israeli fighter jets killed another Hamas militant and wounded three others in a missile strike on a car in the Sabra area, one of the remaining points between Israel and the southern Gaza Strip, killed two brothers aged 14 and 16. Their 17-year-old sister was gravely wounded.

About 15 Israeli tanks also advanced into Gaza near the former settlement of Dugit, a Palestinian security official said.

"Israeli tanks moved about 2 km into the Gaza Strip, near the Karnee (Israeli) settlement of Dugit, and east of Jabaliya" southeast of Dugit, said it has been the heaviest attack since the Israeli pullout the winter said.

An Israeli military spokesperson said only that "some tanks entered the northern Gaza Strip in a defensive move, without going far from the border" separating the territory from Israel. AFP

New JFK analysis suggests 2nd shooter

WASHINGTON—A NEW ANALysis of remaining bullet fragments from the 1963 assassination of JFK president John F. Kennedy suggests a second shooter may have been involved in the plot.

The findings suggest the prevailing theory that a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, killed Kennedy is wrong, according to a research team that published its findings on Thursday.

The researchers "show that you don't need to take out a second assassin to fundamentally flaunt," wrote William Tobin, the team author of the report, published in the latest issue of the Annals of Applied Statistics.

Tobin, a former FBI agent and forensic scientist, teamed with Israel-based physicist Cliff Spiegelman of Texas A & M University to reexamine the five bullet fragments recovered after Kennedy's assassination using new scientific advances.

The findings contradict testimony to the House Select Committee on Assassinations hearing in 1978 in which Dr. Vincent Guinn said the bullet fragments are exactly equaled that two bullets—of an unusual kind of ammunition—were used.

"The new analysis shows that the bullet fragments involved in the investigation are not nearly as rare as previously reported," Tobin said, pointing to results that showed one in 10 rare bullets matched the fragments.

The findings "mean that the bullet fragments from the assassination that match could have come from three or more separate bullets."

If that is the case, "there is second assassin is likely as an additional bullet would not be attributable to the main suspect, Mr. Oswald," the report said.

"We believe there is no scientific basis from the fragment matching performed by Dr. Guinn to conclude that only two bullets were the source of the reconstruction fragments."

The official theory, made challenged but never disproved, is the one established by the government-mentioned Warren Commission, formed immediately after the killing.

The Commission, headed by Chief Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren, said that Kennedy was assassinated by a sole gunman, Oswald, who fired his rifle from a window on the sixth floor of a book warehouse as the President's motorcade passed by during a visit to Dallas, Texas.

The commission determined that two bullets caused Kennedy's fatal wounds and found no evidence that anyone else was involved in the killing. AFP

WAY OF THE DRAGON
Tourists at a publication in one of a dragon sculptures on display at the Forbidden City during the International Museum Day in central Beijing on May 18. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Half of Sarkozy's ministers are women

PARIS—French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Friday unveiled a 15-member government that includes seven women and women's. Included Bernard Kouchner as foreign minister. The government team, announced a day after the right-wing president named Francois Fillon as prime minister to lead his reform drive, has some old-school elements: 10 ministers in the outgoing cabinet of Jacques Chirac. The new cabinet looks much more contemporary, giving significant roles to women and minorities for the first time to members of North African origin, highlighting Sarkozy's pledge to end ethnic divisions in France. AFP

Paris Hilton likely to serve only 23 days

LOS ANGELES—Paris Hilton escaped an appeal against her 45-day prison term on Thursday as judge Michael said she would be released by good behavior after serving only half of the sentence. The multimillionaire celebrity and socialite had been ordered to report to prison within this month after being slapped with a new sentence for violating terms of her drunk driving conviction suspended. Hilton's lawyer, Stephanie Kane, said she would appeal her conviction on three counts of violating probation. Judge Pastoral Kuhn said they were open to a shorter sentence of up to seven years because they were unaware of the contents of the confusion they were struggling. AP

Sentencing in 1993 Mumbai bombings case

MUMBAI, INDIA—A court handed out the first sentences on Friday in the more than 100 people convicted of involvement in the 1993 serial bombings in India's financial capital Mumbai that killed 257 people—the country's deadliest terrorist attacks. Abu Salem, including three fellow men convicted by three others in the case, were sentenced and a fine of 25,000 rupees ($575) for conspiring, making explosives and ammunition in their fishing trawlers to smuggle them to the Indian coast before the attacks. Judge Pramod Kode said they were spared a harsher sentence of up to seven years because they were unaware of the contents of the confusion they were smuggling. AP

Bush threatens new sanctions against Iran

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush warned on Thursday that the United States and Britain would push for new UN sanctions against Iran if the Iranian republic refuses to take its role in stopped nuclear weapons. "Now we would be made progress with the Iranians, we want to work together to implement new sanctions through the United Nations," Bush told a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The United States and Britain would "continue to make it clear that Iran with a nuclear weapon is not in the interest of peace in the world," Bush said in Blair made his final White House visit as prime minister. Shortly after Bush spoke, a senior Iranian official said that new sanctions over Iran's nuclear ambitions would only fuel the crisis. Iran is installing 3,000 centrifuges at its uranium facility at Natanz, which could allow it to produce enough nuclear material to build two atomic bombs per year. AP

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The WORLD

US senators agree on immigration reform legislation

WASHINGTON—SENATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES ANNOUNCED an agreement on Thursday afternoon on immigration-reform legislation that would bring illegal immigrants and their families "out of the shadows and into the sunshine of American life," as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy put it.

The bill would provide an opportunity "right away" for millions of illegal laborers to earn their status, said Kennedy, D-Mass. It would emphasize family ties as well as employment skills in weighing how soon immigrants could become legal residents, he said.

But it would also emphasize improved border security and would call for "very strong sanctions" against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, according to Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Both senators acknowledged that the proposed bill, which was immediately praised by President Bush, is likely to come under fire both from the political right and the political left—the former for its "amnesty" or "not humanitarian enough," as Specter said.

To become legislation, the proposed bill would have to be approved by the House, which has had serious differences with the Senate on the issue. The House has tended to emphasize border security more than ways to allow immigrants to become citizens, and any mention of "amnesty" for illegal aliens has been anathema in the House.

Still, Kennedy said that the bill, however imperfect, was the best chance in years to secure America's borders, help millions of people who have been living in fear and help to eliminate a sad and sordid "underground economy" in American life.

The legislation, as explained by the senators, is "comprehensive" enough. It is square 300 pages, Specter noted. He said that illegal aliens would have to earn their right to be on the path to citizenship and would have to go to "the end of the line," bureaucratically speaking.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic majority leader, on Thursday praised the work of the Senate negotiators and said their agreement "can serve as a starting point" for a Senate debate next week.

Bush praised the senators' agreement as a prelude to "an immigration system that is secure, productive, orderly and fair."

The senators said the system they envision would give weight to immigrants' education and to job skills deemed helpful to the economy in deciding whom to admit, using a point system to evaluate these qualifications. Family ties would remain an important factor.

The point system is one element of a comprehensive bill that calls for the biggest changes in immigration law and policy in more than 20 years. The full Senate plans to take up the legislation next week. New York Times News Service

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Editor Teddyboy S. Pimentel Assistant Editor Fausto T. Dy, Jr. Sub

■ Pistons send Bulls packing /A28

Espiritu takes overall lead; stage to Obosa

By Herwag B. Castillo

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—NESTOR ESPIRITU took three years to update the Padyak Pinoy.

He needed just two stages to occupy a familiar place.

Espiritu rocketed into the no-frills Baguio-to-Manila race but still managed to snap the yellow jersey off the back of a rattling Frederick Feliciano after a leaf- littered journey from the Quezon Memorial Circle to this tricycle-choked city.

The 32-year-old rider won the 660-km Tour of Pilipinas in 1999 as a rookie, relinquished Feliciano by three seconds for first overall time after finishing in third in the 139-kilometer stage won for the second straight year by Ernesto Obosa.

Obosa, winner of the 2007 Tour's Luzon Cycling Classic from Mandaluyong to Bagamanoc who entered making the BF Team this year, was out in a split-limped dash to the finish, coming out Abocor Inter Nestea in two hours, 49 minutes and 16.07 seconds throughout Cassack Riverside.

Holding the day just four seconds off, Espiritu and Feliciano actually turned in the same time. Espiritu, in it our more 20th due to the off bottom. Pagon, which

Cossack riders set the pace

CAGAYAN DE ORO—DEFENDING CHAMPION Cossack Corella, despite a long training in big names, pressed in the early lead in the team classic of the 2007 Tenkoh Pinoy officially the second stage from Manila City to here.

Blaine Nicole Zamboni led Cossack's ranks by clocking in with the first group led by last season Ernesto Obosa with a time of 2 hours, 49 minutes and 16.07 seconds.

Finishing Mike Asuncion and captain Michael Jose were there first group as Cossack landed the Dusk Team and the organizing PAO cycling.

But the four-second bonus for finishing ahead behind Obosa and Ravian erased the entire rest of the overall lead with Espiritu's total time of 2:10:17.74.

More than Diane the yellow jersey I guess I'll have to defend it the hard way I say," Espiritu, whose bid for a repeat in 1997 was nipped by the great Hong Kong Olympian Wong Kam-po, said in Filipino.

And it was a development Feliciano, a mountain specialist, was just too eager to accept. One stage results on ABS-

said listed 11:17.32 2006 and Ariel Quinto 6:Allot & More by candy three minutes.

Republic Sprint rode remember to check the offer to depose Cassack leader Mark to the 3rd stage over at Valley of Gold stage sponsor Frederick Feliciano was third just a change of a second behind Ball 1:Allot with 11:20 19.1:30 tally.

Joan Adane rode the Rodeo of the Festival pace and the fourth who that rounded for Cassack.

"I was initially praying for Gil, to lose the yellow jersey," Feliciano of the bounce to Mapua.

"It's difficult to ride with that on because you get greedy every move you make."

Obosa jumped into a tie for third in the overall race with Alan Ravina, just another second behind Feliciano even as defending champion Jun's Rancho occupied fifth spot, another tick back, after also finishing in the 25-man first wave.

Jenel Quintal, also a former winner was tied with Ramadhan, while Lloyd Seymore took seventh slot, seven seconds off the pace.

BACCHUS team captain Ernesto Obosa (left) pedals side by side with new prodigious winner Frederick Feliciano during yesterday's Padyak Pinoy 2nd stage. BEN CABALLERO

Orcollo rips rival, gains Enjoypool 9-ball finals

REIGNING WORLD POOL LEAGUE CHAMPION Ronnie Orcollo dismissed Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Marlon Manalo, Antonio Gabica and Warren Kiamco on the sidelines.

Orcollo, being supported by Angel Promotion branches Pony Montano, is already assured of $5,000 for reaching the finals.

Second loss

The 24-year-old Filipino suffered his second loss to Efrenoff, 11-9, to join countrymen Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Marlon Manalo, Antonio Gabica and Warren Kiamco on the sidelines.

Efrenoff, who beat Angel Salvado Remollo, 11-3, who dealt Dominguez's second loss, 11-6.

Efren reigned 2006 Cuneff World 9-Ball Champion Mike Immonen of Finland, 11-9. Immonen crushed Manalo and Bustamante, respectively, by similar 11-8 scores.

Earlier, Bustamante looked dominant overall champion Johnny Archer of the United States, 11-9, while Archer walloped Kiamco, 11-3. Marlon Manalo also made it easier

Alcano downs Thai in 9-ball

REIGNING DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION Ronnie Alcano opened up with a 9-6 victory over Thailand's Pikkrut Bangpermsil in the 2007 Southeast Asian Tour Eastmoney leg at noon yesterday at the Kaohsiung Exhibition Center in Chinese Taipei.

The reigning WPA World 8-ball and 9-ball champ, both a 2-0 lead, but the Thai countered by taking the next four racks. Alcano stepped up and clinched seven table runs to crush the rest in the 10th rack.

Alcano will face 2006 Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Dehkamron Leong Da Dungin the evening.

Antonio Lining, the 2006 Asian 9-ball Open winners and 2006 SEA 8-ball Pool champ slew Bagalawa failed to handle their first assignments as Dark respective groups. Lining bowed to Chee Wong-pang, 9-6, while Bagalawa yielded to Indonesian Rudy Sing. Matches that matches

WBC orders Pacquiao-Marquez tiff

By Ray Lucero

FORGET ABOUT A MANNY PACQUIAO-Juan Manuel Marquez fight for now.

The order of business is the move to a return rematch between the Filipino boxing icon and Mexican master technician Juan Manuel Marquez.

That's what the World Boxing Council wants to happen within the year.

WBC president Jose Sulaiman has ordered the camps of Pacquiao, the incumbent featherweight, and Marquez, the reigning super featherweight titlist, to immediately begin live negotiations on or before Oct. 31.

If no agreement is reached—as the handlers of both Pacquiao and Marquez have other immediate opponents in mind—a purse bidding would be held at the WBC headquarters in Mexico City.

Top Rank big boss Bob Arum has been stressing the unbeaten Filipino, the WBC super featherweight champion, as Pacquiao's likely opponent as a best prospect to be held in Macao on Oct. 6.

Controversial draw

Marquez, best remembered for serving Dave Boy's first-round knockdown and then forging a controversial draw with Pacquiao in their first meeting on Mar. 8, 2008, is keen on fighting either Ramirez from whom he avenged the WBC crown in February, or Argentina's Jorge Barrios.

Arum, 75, has placed Marquez low on his priority list, stressing that the Golden Boy Promotions mentality is asking for a bigger gate share than Pacquiao, even though he (Marquez) has "absolutely no fan base."

Under WBC rules, the champion gets 75 percent share, with the challenger settling for 25 percent.

Ranked above Marquez on senior's list but not knocked in the Ribeiro Valero, Barrera and Mexican Humberto Soto, who is slated to battle Bobby Pacquiao, Manny's younger brother, on June 9 in New York.

Through not on the list, WBC bantamweight champ Jeiper Cho should also be considered as probable Pacquiao opponent, according to Kuwait Boxing Commission executive advisor Major Lee, who sits on the WBC board of governors.

PACQUIAO: Marquez low on his list

Computer picks Manny to stop Mexican champ

COMPUTER FIGHT SIMULATION HAS REvealed that Manny Pacquiao has a 60-percent chance of knocking out Juan Manuel Marquez if their grudge battle pushes through.

But if Marquez wins, it's likely to be via decision, according to the results obtained by Marcus Langer and released this week by Boxing Combination Wikis.

The two rivals, Langer countered 100,000 simulations set at 12 rounds and under standard championship rules.

He inputted computerized profiles of the two boxers, taking into account their strengths, weaknesses, ring tendencies and characteristics.

And, as Langer's data would show, the bout is likely to go either way, just like their first meeting.

In 44,904 instances Pacquiao emerged victorious with a knockout (knock-of stoppage, 40 percent by decision and only 6 percent by split verdict.

Marquez beat Pacquiao in 45,407 instances, winning 71 percent by decision, 24 percent by knockout and 15 percent by split decision.

A draw in technical stoppage occurred in 27,289 cases. Edson L. Inguenbly, Zenit Bulate

STAGE 2 RESULTS

2007 Century Pulpit Pinoy
Quezon City to Caloocan City (119 Kms)

Iggy erects 7-shot lead

Lacosta 3 off clubhouse lead in Macau Open

PBA at PCSO
Kasama mo

Last February 17, Philippine Basketball Association launched "Kasama Mo", a program aimed at promoting healthy citizenry and community. It was presented at Cavite Coliseum Grounds, Bacoor Cavite.

PBA, in partnership with PCSO, seeks to curb Filipinos' health problems especially malnourishment, obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes. In line with this are the program's thrusts namely good nutrition, anti-drug and no smoking, physical fitness and good grooming.

"The PBA has always been supportive on this kind of endeavor as the league not only promotes value of sports but also physical fitness," Commisioner Noli Eala said.

The players themselves advocate this cause through their healthy lifestyles. Indeed, the league not only entertains but also cares for the society.

Special thanks to our Marketing Partners:

Harbour five set to run all the way vs Henkel

RAMCEE CESTER COACH JORGE GALENT reports an intense, first-period game where his defending champion club will Henkel Intra meeting at 12 noon in the PBA Unity Cup today.

"We have to win to be safe in the semis," said Galleno, seeking their fifth Shoreline Pure meet wins nine of their remaining three eliminations games for an early spot in Final Four.

"We know PBA Jun Ryneil Reyes provides the tempo of their team. Sister's assist is their running game and Chris Bitoy-point shooting. But the tenacious defense must be to top-top shape."

Holding a 7-2 slate, Harbour Centre remains just half a game behind league leading Caltrans Distiller Beer Pubs.

Tennis Rabanzuk, ranked third at 8-4, must also triumph over Dave Yang Pesak at 4 p.m. to stay in the running for the two spot-semis slots in the Final Four.

Meanwhile, San Miguel Magnolia and Harper King will try to end their losing skids at 2 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan.

Tennis Rabanzuk will seek to avenge its first-round loss to Dark, 86-81, with the victory of PE Ace Go Dreamers.

"We still have a chance to be in the top two with a win in our next game," said Rabanzuk guard Ronell Jamilla tallied an with 20 points the last time.

Dreamers, the Most Valuable Player in the same tournament last year, left by the Tennis Stars last year to attend to his ailing mother Mary, who hails from Bondoner, Negros Occidental.

With his mom fully recovered, the 6-foot-7 center returned to the country last Wednesday.

Dreamers watched from the sideline two days ago as teammate Jayjay Rodriguez exploded with 26 points to lead the Road Kings to a 79-69 decision over Magnolia.

The Road Kings will shoot for their third straight win against the Kitchen Specialists, who are trying to climb from the cellar to avoid early elimination.

Ronnie Magsanoc will shoot for back-to-back wins after a 79-72 decision over Boy, a victory that closer among performances by Ernie Jason Castro, Oliver Lauzon, Rene Bolgo and Chad Alcedo.

But Reyes is expected to be back in form after the Super Stakes' 79-66 setback against Talisman Distiller Pete Pedro.

The Mainstreet kicked the PBA late point guard to only nine points after averaging 17 in his first three outings.

Jeanette M. Pays

STANDINGS	W	L
C. Distiller	7	2
Mainstreet	7	2
Tanduay Dist.	6	3
Henkel Intra	5	4
Harper King	4	5
Bakel	3	6
Magnolia	2	7

ALSO IN THE SPORTS SECTION

Tennis Rabanzuk vs Dave Yang Pesak in Unity Cup

Reyes to top Most Valuable Player

Alfil Tenkers go through as he tries to snap Star's ball-stealing, 7-foot-1 Joseph Yeo (R).

Slim chance for RP five

TEHRAN—SAN MIGUEL BEERMEN GAMELY IN A TOUGH MATCH SET-matters against unbeaten Blue Star of Lebanon in the quarterfinal round last night of the 18th Elite Asia Champions Cup at the Azadi Stadium here.

The clutch, set at 9:30 p.m. (13:45 p.m., Manila time), kicked off the quarterfinals of the tournament that has been a parade of classmates for the Filipinos's growing up for other important tournaments.

The Beermen, which hosted Bahrain for their first win, Wednesday, were expected to the underdogs against the Lebanese who emerged from the elimination of the three-team Group E unscathed.

"To me, they're the second best, if not the best, team here," said RP coach Chot Reyes. "We go into the game to underdogs, but you never know."

For the second straight game, the Filipinos will be playing an opponent with an towering import, the Lebanese counterpart being 6-foot-10 Adar Gaines and 6-6 William Pippen, said to be a cousin of former NBA star Scottie Pippen.

Still, the two American have proven to be effective and effective, especially when combining forces with Lebanese star Al Bali Al Khalili. Their coach, Mic Trokh, is a former Tele St Tore coach in and is close familiar with the style of play in the PBA.

"We've got to control the ball longer, but our emphasis will be on defense," Reyes said. "We've got to stop their transition game and disrupt their half-court offense. Avoid him any ball-court interpretation only."

A win over the Lebanese would push the Flatlands into Saturday's semifinals while a loss would relegate them to the battle for fifth place.

Reyes said any finish would suit us long as his players continued to benefit from the rest that yesterday's next week's

No rest day for Nationals

TEHRAN—THE JAMES MILLER TEAM continued its work on what was supposed to be a rest day Thursday in the 18th Elite Asia Champions Cup.

Despite tired bodies, the Nationals spent the better half of the morning playing a practice game with the lines marked just as the real thing.

The lineups, featuring a 7-foot-1 who is still a rookie in pro ranks, was more like coaches who stood as many than 5 ft. cleats out ahead 46-47 after the three-quarter mark.

But coach Chot Reyes said his players

games to in terms of their continuous adjustments from their PBA style of play copied from the American NBA.

"In the US, it's speed and quickness, while in the international scene it's more on the real physicality," he said.

"The physicality is the biggest adjustment to make. We've got to have the ability to handle hard contacts, unlike the PBA where there are no hard checks and a charge is called.

Head del coma Jaime Chandler before the Nationals extended a debate hosted by coach Hunter Preston and his staff.

Scotia tournament and July's Fiba Asia championship.

"We're here to learn," he said.

Coseteng guns for 2nd sweep

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOEN COSETENG OF San Mig Coffee and rivals Seaton of Rome Network aim for another sweep in their respective divisions as today's second leg of the Philippine Touring Car Championship forces to the Subic International Raceway.

Coseteng demolished personal rival Rookie Ramirez of Petron-SBA in the season-opener last month at the PTCC 6-cup 1 class.

He's expected to consider a come-out to hopes of making an unprecedented 11th straight victory on event.

Last year's Group 1 winner Ely Mamaplang of Epiphany Motorsports showed he is one of the new faces to contend with in Group 1 this season. A damaged cross fender and a loose driver's seat however, foiled his bid in the first leg.

The other top championship threats in the racing series mentioned by the automobile association Philippines are Jojo Ramirez, Orestes Uy, Renato Hilomen, Ben Montecalvo, Jonathan Bautista, Carlos Antonio and Gabbie de Lichtervelt.

Top drivers chase Tiu's drag record

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST DRAG RACING HERO aim again today to a bid to beat shoreliner Tiu's record time of 10.37 seconds in the fourth leg of the San Miguel Coffee Drag Racing Championship at the Batangas City Sport Complex in Bauang, Batangas.

Chief Team Shell Tiu Chakrawarthi, winner of the last leg in his SKL Motorsports Honda Drag Top, had the fastest with a special to setup the time. He beat time in the previous 10.720 race.

Some 130 drivers are active in the Quick 8, Pro, Pro-Stock and Mod Street billed in the seven-part of the racing series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP).

The tasks are still To with 10 points, in a tie with Glenn Garcia of PI Autosport Simulator, Ray Bryce Concepcion of Orthodox Racing and Indy driver Allan Adrian Tagaytay, also of PGRT.

Among the other favored drivers are honorary tie of Rosendo in the first Street division and Vito Balagan of Team Ready who shares the lead with Charles Lu and Shamsie Esguerra in the Sports.

Reporter Sport Staff

P1-M poker tour swings to South

THE $10,000 BLEEDING POKER TOUR MILLION Boo-Hoo Tiu championship begins its southern swing today with the building of a satellite tournament in the Casino Filipino Lahug in Cebu.

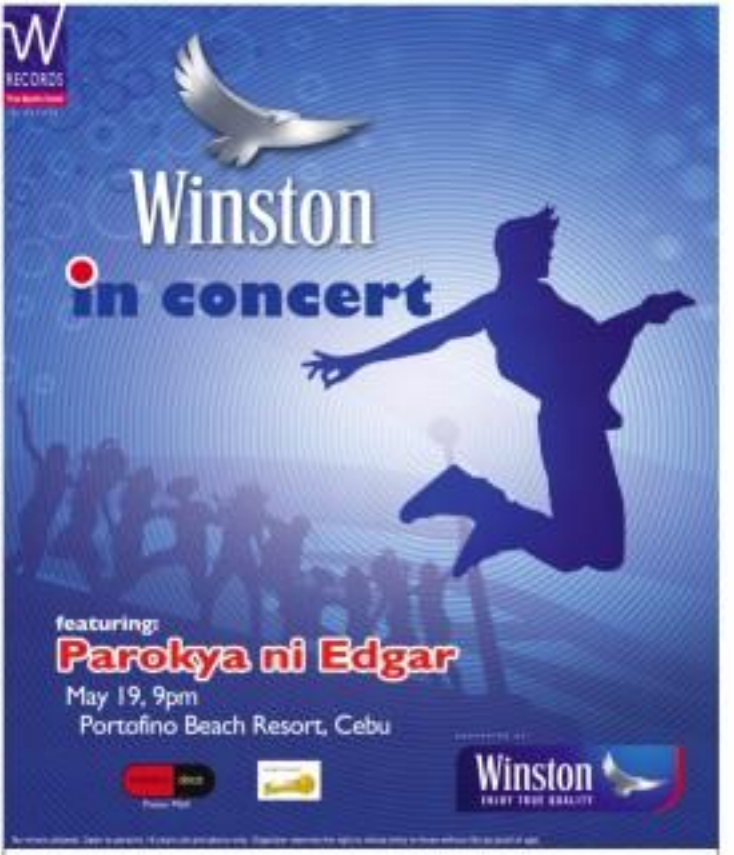
Competitions will also be held in Bacolod and Iloilo.

Local poker players will vie for free seats in the grand finals slated July 7-8 in Manila. Tournament seat registration fee is P10,000.

Players from the south have been joining their counterparts from Metro Manila and Luzon with competitions previous PPT Million Peso events.

Cebuo Manuel Sipin and Mike Tyler made it in the top 10 in the April competition and Sipin went all the way to the final table and a fourth place finish for the November leg.

Other qualifying satellite tournaments are coming at Sun Mig Mahung Town Center every Wednesday and Friday and at Rhett Room at Metro Walk in Iloilo every Thursday. For details and reservations call 0920-9111111.



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SPORTS

ALL FOR ONE NO MORE. Detroit rookies Rasheed Wallace (left) and Tayshaun Prince (right) battle former teammate Ben Wallace, now with the Chicago Bulls, for possession. The three played together the last time the Pistons won the NBA championship. AP

Pistons send Bulls packing

CHICAGO—RICHARD HAMILTON SCORED 25 points and the Detroit Pistons advanced to the National Basketball Association's Eastern Conference final for the fifth year in a row by beating Chicago, 90-84, Thursday.

Chauncey Billups scored 23 points for the Pistons, who eliminated the Bulls, 4-2, in the best-of-seven series and will play the winner between Cleveland and New Jersey for a spot in next month's NBA Finals.

"Our goal is to win the championship. The conference finals is on the way," Billups said. "Maybe rare day I'll look back on getting there for straight three."

Detroit lost its Miami in last year's East finals after failing to win games in the 2005 NBA Finals, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2004 NBA Finals and losing to New Jersey in the 2003 East finals.

"Experience has a tendency to help out," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "There's no question having been here, our guys know what it takes. We have guys to make big shots and big defensive stands.

"It's a hell of an accomplishment to go the straight years to the conference finals."

Since 1984, when the NBA expanded the playoffs to the current 16 teams, only the Lakers have reached a conference final more consecutive seasons than Detroit's current run, the longest in the East since Chicago's dilation, 1993.

"Almost all the time is a seven-game series the few times since," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said. "They're the best team right now."

Chicago's El Brown scored all of his team-high 26 points in the first half to spark the Bulls to a 48-43 half-time lead, but Detroit opened the third quarter with a 12-1 run to take command.

"We started moving the ball," Detroit forward Rasheed Wallace said. "That first half we were just disjointed. We didn't move the ball."

The Bulls never overcame that sluggish start in the second half.

"We started missing some shots and the ball stopped moving for us," Chicago's Kirk Hinrich said. "That sparks quick trouble for us."

Wallace scored 16 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds. AFP

Cavs clear LeBron for Game Five

CARL TEGH L. Enclosed TO
7:30 p.m.—Cleveland vs New Jersey

CLEVELAND, OHIO—CLEVELAND FORward LeBron James will play Friday in Game Six of the Cavaliers' Eastern Conference playoff series against the New Jersey Nets, the team announced Thursday.

The visiting Cavaliers lead the series, 3-2, and can clinch their first series win since they swept the Nets in four games in 1992.

James suffered a bruised right knee and a minor scrape when he crashed into his team's broadcaster Jim Jackson during New Jersey's Jason Kidd for a basket in the final seconds of an 83-75 Nets victory here Wednesday.

James is averaging team-high of 20.2 points and 6.1 assists in the 7-7 rebounds a game in the playoffs for the Cavaliers, who have not reached the conference finals since 1992 and have never advanced to the NBA Finals. AFP

SUN AT THE CENTER. Phoenix Suns' Boris Diaw, bottom center, is surrounded by media after basketball practice in Phoenix. Diaw returns to the Suns for a crucial Game 6 against the San Antonio Spurs, who lead their best-of-7 playoff series, 3-2. Diaw and Amare Stoudamire return to the Suns roster after serving suspensions. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible] Bldg., [illegible] San Marcelino
Ler. General Mother St., Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
COMPAL INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
APEC TOURS PHILS., INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BAR LIFE OF CANADA (PHILIPPINES) INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PHIL. HALIDEI CORP. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ACCENTS ICT BASED MANAGEMENT, INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HYATAI MEDICAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CHITA'S MANUFACTURING, INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MANILA MANDARIN HOTEL INCORPORATED (MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA) [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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DOM AUSTRALIA IMMIGRATION ASSISTANT INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BUFFALO MARKETING LTD. CO. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminars on Labor Laws, Occupational Safety and Health and Productivity. For more information, please call [illegible] and it is accurate.

LORENZO M. TRIANGULO
Regional Director

(Pub. May 19, 2007)

PHILIPPINE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
[illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PHILEXPORT Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply pre-qualification and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

[illegible]

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address and Room [illegible] starting May 18, 2007, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP1,000.00 per set.

Pre-registered and eligible bidders shall be submitted in one (1) envelope with the PHILEXPORT Logo and Name thereon on or before 10:00 a.m. of the above date. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. The PHILEXPORT Development Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in the bidding and award the contract to the bidder whose offer is most advantageous to the government. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions as stipulated in the bid documents. Failure to do so shall be a cause for disqualification. Bidders shall submit with their bids a valid Mayor's/Business Permit, PCAB license, Income Tax Return, Audited Financial Statements, and other documents required by the bidding documents.

PHILEXPORT Development Corporation reserves the right to accept the bidding proposal by lot(s) and/or by item(s), or reject any and/or all bid(s) and waive any defect therein and to accept such bid which in their determination is the most advantageous to the government.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

PHILRICE PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Rice Research Institute, through the Government of the Philippines is implementing with loan from [illegible] and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan for the [illegible] and to invite eligible and interested bidders to submit sealed bids for the supply of [illegible] as detailed in the bidding documents.
2. The Philippine Rice Research Institute now invites eligible bidders for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (TWO LOTS) [illegible] and specifications.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures specified in Republic Act 9184 and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of August 26, 2003 [illegible] and is open to all interested bidders as defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 [illegible] Bidders should have completed within the last [illegible] years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The contract similarity shall be determined by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). For the purpose of contract similarity, the contract must have been completed and accepted by the end user. Bidders should submit a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License and registration for the Trade/Supply Category [illegible] and must be registered with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) [illegible] and must submit a valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the Philippine Rice Research Institute, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on May 21 to 25, 2007 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of [illegible] (PHP [illegible]). The method of payment will be in form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or their authorized representatives.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before [illegible] (10:00 a.m.). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of [illegible] Bidding Documents in the amount of [illegible] (PHP [illegible]). The submission of bids that fail to comply with this requirement shall be automatically rejected during the bid opening.
7. Bid opening shall be on [illegible] (10:01 a.m.) at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. PhilRice reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any deficiency, and to accept the bid that is considered most advantageous to the government, without incurring any liability to the affected bidders or bidders.

[illegible]
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(Pub. May 19, 21, 2007)

Big guns gear up for Makati Inn'l Derby

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING JOCKEYS AND MAKING ONE SPECIES GATE LEAP on four horses seven at the Makati Coliseum on the Makati Invitational Cock Derby slated May 20, 30 and June 1. Presently MTV Sports and Entertainment Corporation (MSEC) is the organizer and principal producer of the derby to be sponsored by Kalibog Derby Ace and Good Moderator. Vice President of Logistics, the complete with a champion for the 100-entry Makati International Derby and Embassy, will again field Jun Kuroda May derby. With only three entries to show going into the 4-cock finals. Financial incentive to the top after adding up to see more cockers.

Padyak Pinoy

TEAM - RACE RESULTS

Stage 2 - Quezon City - Caloocan

1. [illegible] [illegible]
2. [illegible] [illegible]
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10. [illegible] [illegible]
11. [illegible] [illegible]
12. [illegible] [illegible]

INDIVIDUAL - RACE RESULTS

1. [illegible]
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7. [illegible]
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9. [illegible]
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www.padyakpinoy.com.ph

TANDUAY

SPORTS WATCH

SJC 7-cocker finals gets going

MUSIC TIMES SPORTS presents the [illegible] Cock Derby. The [illegible] Derby is open Completed 3000 at the San Juan Coliseum. For other [illegible] participants who are not in the [illegible] and Barrio Derby. All readers below 4-cock finals. The champion's [illegible] will receive a guaranteed minimum of [illegible] cash prizes. Location and Derby Chief Dennis Almendrale the seventh day of [illegible] Cock-ers Club 4-Cock Derby series reserves [illegible] Derby. For more information come to the [illegible] Sports Cock Derby on June 13, 15 and 17. For reservations call [illegible] 7254-3000.

SD Eghes on tap in Las Piñas

MUSIC SOUNDCASTERS will open up the three-stone between Cuarte and Metro Manila's cock-ers [illegible] Piñas Coliseum. The winners will receive a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and Mayor [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 2 of 3 mine firms post losses /B2
■ BIR to probe tax payments of insurance companies /B1

BUSINESS
Editor Raoul B. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Makinano

Gov't posted ₱12-B budget surplus in April

Election spending ban helped trim expenses

By Michelle V. Reyes

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT POSTED A BUDget surplus of P12 billion in April, aided by a spending ban in the run-up to the May 14 elections that prohibited expenditures for new infrastructure projects.

The Department of Finance yesterday reported that the surplus for the month resulted from the P161.2 billion worth of revenues collected and P99.2 billion worth of expenditures.

The April fiscal performance brought the government's budget position for the first four months of the year to a deficit of P65 billion, an improvement from the P82-billion shortfall recorded as of the first quarter.

The government is prohibited from spending on new infrastructure projects 45 days before a regional election. This means that within that period, the government could only spend on infrastructure projects that have been started prior to the spending ban.

But Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said that aside from the spending ban, the underspending also had to do with absorptive-capacity problems of line agencies. He said some departments were having a hard time operating the budget allowed to them for a given period partly because of bureaucratic processes in procurement.

Earlier, the budget department warned line agencies against underspending, saying there's opportune budget for the rest of the year would be withheld if they do not spend according to what has been programmed.

The P12-billion surplus in April meant that the government still had to record a P14-billion surplus in May and June to meet the fiscal target for the second quarter. The government has set a goal of posting a P14.9-billion surplus for the first semester, June.

For the first half, the government has set a goal of posting a deficit of only P31.2 billion. This means the government has to record a financing for P90 billion deficit so far recorded in the first four months of the year.

For the entire year, the government's target is to limit the deficit to P63 billion, lower than the

2 of 3 mine firms post losses

Philex seen doing well; Lepanto, Semirara report drop in income

By Jessy S. Barros

WHILE THE MINING SECTOR remains optimistic in surpassing $3.5 bil. lion in foreign investments to revive the industry, two listed firms have reported losses in the first quarter of the year.

Although Philex Mining Corp. fared well the previous quarter, Semirara Mining Corp. posted a drop in net income while Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. reported a huge net loss during the same period.

Philex Mining said that its consolidated net income in the first quarter amounted to P1 billion, almost twice the P579.3 million it posted in the same period last year.

Philex also reported an increase in the volume of metals sold this year, which coincided with the rise in metal prices, boosting its first quarter operating revenue to P2.6 billion from P2.1 billion last year.

There were 11.9 million pounds of copper, and 35,605 ounces of gold—from 28,109 tons of concentrates—shipped out last quarter, compared to the 9.4 million pounds of copper and 21,420 ounces of gold from 20,082 tons of concentrates sold in 2006.

Metal prices during the first quarter averaged $2.93 a pound for copper and $650.62 ounce for gold. Last year, metal prices averaged $2.588 a pound for copper and $561 per ounce for gold.

The increase in operating revenues, however, was partially offset by the increase in operating costs and expenses of P1.2 billion from P1.1 billion.

According to Semirara Mining, the 39-percent decline in net income to P134 million, from last year's P376 million, was due largely to a 1.0-percent decrease in average composite prices.

For this period, composite average price amounted to P1,026.00 a metric ton, dropping from the previous year's P1,224.83 a metric ton.

The decrease was also attributed to the strengthening of the peso against the dollar, and the lower "agreed prices" with customers on earlier this year.

Local coal prices are benchmarked with international prices.

Total sales volume, however, increased 10 percent to 863,010 MT from last year's sales volume of 600,606 MT.

Despite the increased sales volume, coal revenues remained stable decreased by 9 percent to P1,177 billion in the first quarter of the year, from P1.316 billion in the same period last year.

Lepanto Consolidated Mining reported a huge net loss of P4.1 billion, from 4.3 million in the same period last year, due mainly to steep operating cost attributing to P122 billion.

While Lepanto's sales increased by 8 percent to P683 million from last year's P461 million, the bulk of which was used in payroll operating expenses.

Its expenses consequently declined to P28 million from P81 million, while parts and supplies rose from P404 million to P289 million.

Metro Pacific eyes $15.9-M loan to sink into MMC

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS Corp. (MPIC) secured the approval of its board to negotiate and secure loans worth $15.89 million from Mitsubishi Corporation (MPIC) and US fund manager Ashmore Fund to finance MPIC's proposed investment in Makati Medical Center Inc.

MPIC will subscribe to the convertible notes to be issued by Medical Doctors Inc., owner and operator of Makati Medical.

The loans are convertible to a certain number of common shares in Metro Pacific Investments. MPIC is keen on making investments in healthcare and power generation. MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan earlier said that MPIC might acquire one or two hospitals possibly in key provincial cities to replicate the success of Makati Medical Center, where MPIC will own 19.9 percent.

"The successful experience of Makati Med can be replicated in other hospitals not only in Metro Manila but in other major provincial cities, and we will continue to look at infrastructure projects, expanding Maynilad's operations and [investing] in power," Pangilinan said.

MPIC has agreed to subscribe to P950 million in convertible subordinated notes out of a total offer by Makati Med of P960 million worth of notes. The proceeds will fund, in part, Makati Med's new medical building and to upgrade existing hospital facilities and equipment.

The investment is expected to be completed this month. Upon conversion, MPIC's subscription in Makati Med will be approximately 33 percent.

Makati Med's unaudited first quarter net income this year rose sharply by 46 percent to P61.6 million against the P37.2 million posted in the same period last year.

Makati Med has 400 beds. Pangilinan said he would like to create a hospital system that would service the 3 million people in the area.

In the power sector, MPIC sources said the company is looking to sell its unit for sale by the National Power Corporation. The group however has not identified possible targets.

Meanwhile, MPIC has approved the increase in the company's authorized capital stock from P4.6 billion to P10 billion, equivalent to 1.1 billion new shares.

The increase is being undertaken to support the investments being made in Makati Med and Maynilad Water Services Inc., and for other investments in the future.

Nido Petroleum of Australia mulls over public offering

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIAN COMPANY Nido Petroleum Ltd. a considering listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange, in a bid to raise more cash for its exploration projects.

In a briefing yesterday, Nido deputy managing director Joanne Williams said good prospects for the company in the Philippines, as well as the strong performance of the local bourse these past months have prompted Nido to consider a public offering.

"We're seeing extraordinary growth in the market. We're pleased to be based in the Philippines, but we're really just evaluating that option at the time," she said.

No timetable or number of shares to be issued had been set for the initial public offering, however.

"It's really just a plan right now. If we're going to list here, it has to be a reasonable portion (of our shares) to make the market worth it to us," she said.

She said Nido was still trying to find partners that could help it buy its Philippine service contracts within the Northwest Palawan basin.

These partners could be major oil companies or large independent firms with enough expertise on petroleum exploration and development, she said.

"It's not really the money that we're after but the capability to explore such a huge area," she said. "We're talking to a number of companies right now."

Nido managing director David Whitby said the company was willing to retain only a 20-30 percent stake in its service contracts—from the current 60 percent, just enough to entice majors to participate in its projects.

"Our 60 percent stake in each of our service contracts is still a lot. What we want is to spread the risk around and get more activity on the ground," Whitby said. If we take it (option), we can drill more wells, and increase our chances of making a hit," he said.

He added that Nido, with its market capitalization of A$209 million ($194 million), was not looking for partners to fund its projects, but entities that had enough expertise in remote mainstream gold fields to service contracts.

Nido holds interests in service contracts 66, 54, 58, 58 and 63, all located within the Northwest Palawan basin. These service contracts cover an area spanning more than 3 million ha.

Fresh from US listing, RP firm eyes 6th call center

By Rommel W. Gonzales and Rica T. Obcemea

AFTER CRACKING $1.4 BILLION as the first Philippine business process outsourcing to get listed in a United States stock exchange, eVideo.com Global Solutions Inc. has announced that it will open its ninth call center—a 1,000-seat facility in Mandaluyong City.

The outsourcing firm has also set its revenue target for the year at more to P260 million.

The new call center, located at the Ansen@Shaw facility in Mandaluyong City, has a total area of 13,000 sq. m. This will be its 13th site worldwide.

In the Philippines, eVideo.com has a contract center in Makati City, another in Quezon City, one in Mandaluyong City and one in Cebu City.

In the United States, the firm has three centers in Arkansas, one in North Dakota, one in South Dakota and one in New Mexico.

eVideo.com has a total of about 10,000 employees, with some 75 percent based in the Philippines. The new call center will raise the total to about 80 percent, with a total of nearly 11,000 workers.

eVideo.com made the announcement barely a month after it completed its $75-million initial public offer at the Nasdaq in the United States, part of proceeds from which was meant to fund expansion efforts.

John Farris, company president and chief executive, said in a statement that eVideo.com's successful Nasdaq IPO affirmed that the Philippines was one of the top outsourcing destinations in the world.

Fred Ayala, eVideo.com chief, pointed out expansion at the corporate headquarters in Eastwood Cyberpark that its $260-million revenue target for 2007 is about 38 percent higher than the actual revenue of $195 million it posted in 2006.

Ayala said there is much room for growth for eVideo.com and the BPO industry in general, because its biggest customer base, the United States, has become a $324-billion market that outsources only about $35 billion of potential business.

More concretely, the company is aiming to reach the target by building a bigger client base in the Philippines. High-tech support for enterprises, additional sales and financial services handled with customer services.

Another way for eVideo.com to grow its business is by paying off debt, which the company did after getting its $75-million initial public offering on March 28. CFO Michael Jochan said.

"We paid off $16 million in debt from the proceeds of that offering," he said.

He also said that the company is developing a financial hedging program to cushion it from the impact of the strengthening peso.

GOV'T . . . From page B1

P614 billion recorded last year.

"We are keeping our goal of having a P60-billion deficit (for this year and posting a balanced budget by 2008," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a briefing yesterday.

Of the 2007 2 billion in revenue collection in April, P75.8 billion was accounted for by the Bureau of Internal Revenue while another P17.2 billion was contributed by the Bureau of Customs.

The Bureau of the Treasury which collects the share of the national government in the earnings of state-owned firms, collected P4.8 billion.

Of the P80.2 billion worth of expenditures in April, P69 billion were used to pay interest on government loans while the rest were used to pay salaries of government employees and implement state projects and programs.

Teves said the government would work on meeting to hit our deficit reduction target by implementing administrative measures to improve tax collection and by pursuing privatization efforts.

He said the government targets to sell its 787 million shares in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and its 26-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. by the third quarter though estimates said the government could generate P56 billion from its SMC shares and another P6 billion from the sale of its Meralco shares.

Shares . . . From page B1

The composite index added 31.49 points to 3,449.18, erasing the previous closing record of 3,447.68 set on Feb. 5, 1997, shortly before the Asian financial crisis. A total of 3.1 billion shares worth P9.7 billion were traded. (See story on page 1.)

JP Morgan turns 'very bullish' on RP

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucas

GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES GIANT JP Morgan is calling investors in Davos their cooperation in the Philippines as the country's prospects are boosted by low interest rates, a strong peso, reforms in the power arena, an encouraging mining industry and the government's mega-infrastructure spending.

Delivering a briefing at the Alpbach Shangri-La later Thursday, JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd. chief Adam and emerging markets equity strategist Adrian Mowat said JP Morgan was keeping its "overweight" call on the Philippines and advises investors to increase their holdings in the country.

In May, JP Morgan's first investor conference since the Asian financial crisis in the Philippines, being around 80 fund managers, more is forthcoming.

"Now investors are willing to go to this nation like Philippines and people are borrowing really going on a power and coming back to Manila," Mowat said.

"You live in a volatile world when you look at emerging markets. The Philippines only started performing in huge ways this year. The reforms in the power sector are all objectives now, the investments in water-based yields are attractively low," Mowat said.

JP Morgan Securities Philippines Inc. head of equity research Ricky Carlos said there were four key drivers that would help investors placed in the Philippine growth story this year.

She said these were a strong peso due to the country's relatively robust balance of payments position; interest rates which will continue to be low and, in turn, spur loan growth; the government's P1.1-trillion infrastructure spending program; and the foreign direct investments coming back into the country...specifically in manufacturing, power and mining.

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THE BIG STORY IN ALABANG
Portofino:
A masterpiece development
Right here, right now.

Something big has been happening in Alabang. Its development that is now quickly becoming the core of Metropolitan South: Portofino.

A Lifescape by Ortigas Corporation, the mainstay of the real estate industry, Portofino is a masterplanned development artfully created in the spirit of the Italian Dolce Vita.

In demand

Portofino's residential is expressed on a 200-hectare canvas of gentle rolling terrain. Both lot and home and lot packages are in great demand. In fact, the initial development of 100 hectares is 80% sold. The enclaves of Portofino Heights and Courtyards I of Portofino completely sold out and condominium quickly acquired 90% of Portofino South. With demand for Portofino homes continuously rising, Ortigas immediately developed expansion areas that are selling as initially. Courtyards II of Portofino, towers of Portofino and the enclave for Nikkoli homes are now available.

Greater accessibility, greater convenience

Today, many roads lead to Portofino. One can take the Filinvest Tol Exit then the Daang Hari Link Road and Molino Boulevard. The latest access road, the San Pedro, Laguna Link Road provides another convenient point of entry. Even the Daang Hari-South Luzon Expressway. The Php1.38 billion Daang Hari-South Luzon Exchange is a priority project of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and will soon provide the convenience of reduced drive times to and from Portofino.

The commercial area: in full swing

The commercial area, currently in the full swing of development, will be organized into lifestyle zones. The initial zone features establishments in tune with the Italian passion for life, in which one enjoys life's great pleasures. In the initial commercial zone, Fernbrook, the popular wedding and events venue, will host its first wedding event on December 2007. Bistros, cafes, delis and other shops will go hand in hand with Fernbrook to celebrate la dolce vita.

Within the year, a Petron gas station will open for business with accompanying restaurants and cafes. A Country Club and a Boutique Hotel is slated for development soon.

Complete amenities for the entire family

Portofino Heights and Portofino South will offer complementing amenities. The more formal Portofino Heights' amenities spans 10,000 sq.m. Monte di Portofino - the soon to be opened Clubhouse, has a main ballroom and 3 function rooms. Families today are enjoying the Riviera bath-inspired lap pool and children's pool along with the gazebo and the surrounding gardens. In the works, a Mini Park will include a mini-amphitheater and a scenic jogging trail.

The kid-friendly amenities of Portofino South will feature a park, an interactive children's pool with a sloped entry, a bicycle path, an open access field and an open pavilion.

With Portofino, Ortigas creates a masterstroke in property development. And it is all turning into a reality, to enjoy now, right here, right now in Alabang.

For pre-launch developments, please call 892-3888 or 892-3894, or visit www.ortigascom.ph.

Ortigas Corporation is a mainstay real estate developer of innovative and creative Lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes Ortigas Bay Crossroads, Portofino, Georgia Club, Cardiff at The Islands, Avant at The Fort and Mosaic at Greenbelt. With masterplanned developments steeped in classical, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architecture details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.

Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 29, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby Century Park Hotel, 599 Pedro Gil corner Dr. M. Adriatico, Manila.

1. Call to Order
2. Determination/Proof of Notice of Meeting and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 30, 2006
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2006
5. Approval of the 2006 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to eliminate the stockholders' pre-emptive right to subscribe to any new or additional shares of the Bank
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 31, 2006 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 30, 2007 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, this meeting. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5 days or on May 24, 2007. Any proxies so received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 25, 2007, 9:30 a.m. at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, February 16, 2007

FLORO L. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail us: science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Cesar D. Manglicmot

'Get vaccinated,' docs urge

By Tessa S. Salazar

OUR BODIES ARE wonderful defense machines. They are able to fend off most attacks from bacteria and viruses on their own. Sometimes, however, certain bacteria and viruses are potentially too strong or aggressive that without human intervention (via vaccination), entire human populations are in danger of a lifetime of suffering from the debilitating effects of the disease, or of even being wiped out entirely.

Epidemics are pandemics such as those caused by the bacterial Yersinia pestis in the early 20th century (the Bubonic Plague during the Dark Ages), and more recently, by smallpox and poliomyelitis and measles, are examples of viral and human cell attacks that in one time or another threatened the entire human race.

Species-threatening virus

The prospect of another species-threatening virus—the H5N1 strain of the influenza virus—is why popularly known as the Avian Flu...weathering currently in isolated instances in parts of Southeast Asia has sounded alarm bells again for epidemiologists. With a mortality rate of over 50 percent, the dubious title of the deadliest flu to be a global killer since it figures out how to make that transposition jump from birds to humans is no less of a frustration.

There are currently no avian influenza vaccinations yet. Experts note that the newest vaccines available for humans reduce risk of dual infection which in turn decreases the opportunity for the virus to exchange genetic material resulting in a new influenza subtype with pandemic potential. Antiviral drugs are available. Therefore the World Health Organization recommends vaccination for veterinarians and farmers.

Intensified drives

In light of such aggressive viruses, doctors in separate press conferences during the past weeks have called for intensified vaccination drives against influenza, diarrhea and pneumonia, among other diseases.

The WHO, meanwhile, has made some headway in the fight against a number of human deadly infections diseases. It recently announced that vaccines against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) are protective against pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis for children below 2 years old.

The WHO position paper stressed that "1.6-million deaths were caused by this germ annually. Most of these deaths occur in poor countries, and children aged (below) 2 years are disproportionately represented among these deaths." A Philippine study showed that 70 percent of children affected with IPD are aged 1 years old and below. Out of the 70 children studied, 35 percent died of the disease.

Vaccine targets

Dr. Lulu Bravo, Philippine Foundation for Tuberculosis executive director said the IPD vaccine targets Streptococcus pneumoniae, the bacteria that cause invasive pneumococcal disease.

She cited that in one local study among Filipino children, the bacteria 4.25 site rule of three 3 months. She added that it can also take the lives of apparently healthy children within 48 hours of the first symptoms.

PFI president Dr. Eric F. Tayag said that IPD is among the serious diseases that cause death in infants and children.

Beyond control

Infectious diseases, doctors explain, are often beyond any individual's control. Once the bacteria or virus is in circulation among the general human population, very little can be done to stop it unless the population is vaccinated against that virus.

Prevention is also by "preparing" our bodies for the inevitable invasion of these bacteria and viruses, a flu vaccine, for example, contains "weakened" versions of the subject virus. Once the vaccine is injected into our blood stream, our antibodies are able to easily eliminate them. By the time the actual flu virus manages to enter our bodies, our antibodies recognize the virus as the enemy and has the "weapons" available to successfully eliminate the invader.

An individual who has one heavy vaccinated runs the high risk of not only contracting the disease, but of passing on to other unvaccinated individuals.

During a recent EDC vaccination information session, Dr. Salvador B. Dalisbisan, medical director of the clinical R&D and medical affairs of Philippines and Indonesia (Zuno Smithkline Biologicals, cited WHO statistics in Europe epidemics.

She revealed that there are 3 to 5 million cases of severe infections. Illnesses that lead to up to 500,000 deaths each year worldwide.

Dalisbisan also said that influenza is highly recognized both as an emerging and re-emerging viral infection.

He also declares. Their "Emergence" can change abruptly leading to the emergence of a new strain, and resulting whole populations susceptible once more, regardless of their being vaccinated for the previous strain. In Europe, affects all ages but the risk of complications, hospitalizations and deaths is higher among persons aged 65, and young children and persons of any age with certain conditions.

Diarrhea

During the GSK press conference, Dr. Lourdes G. Cardozo, fellow of the Philippine Pediatric Society, also addressed the importance of being vaccinated for rotaviral diarrhea to avoid death due to diarrhea. She said 1 of 2 deaths per year are traced to diarrhea.

Common said dehydration is the main killer for persons suffering from diarrhea. Manifestations of dehydration are thirst, irritability, sunken eyes, decreased skin turgor and decreased urine volume, which ultimately lead to death.

She revealed that globally, rotavirus has "it causes diarrhea among children less than 5 years old.

Treating diarrhea, essential information to prevent the body from dehydration, needed water and salts, and fluids to decrease essential fluids out of the body, among many needs.

She cited that children in developing countries below the age of 3 have at least three to 4 episodes of diarrhea each year, with most by 2, one to five years old.

Grateful mothers, sure to all vaccinations, confident in hospitals and one to one with the.

Fun with pi

QUICK! WHAT IS PI DAY? MARCH 14, of course. Pi, the three who have forgotten, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to diameter. In short, divide a the circumference of a circle (any circle) by its diameter, and voila, you get pi (3.14, to be precise).

Pi is an irrational number, which means that it has

a never-ending string of decimal places, with no discernible repeat sequence. Most of us know that pi is approximately 3.14, but Akira Haraguchi of Japan can recite pi accurately to 42,000 decimal places! (After 10 hours). Other trivia: today, March 14, 3:14, is the time Albert Einstein was born (1879). Perhaps it's time to memorize the digits of pi.

Why do they do it? The usual answer: why do people climb Mount Everest? Because it is there. Because, in an unusual way, it can be relaxing and fun.

EUREKA!

Queenie N. Lee-Chua

Reminiscent of 3 great poets

Most Math, a self-mast engineer in the Philippines, wrote a poem about pi, where he begin in letters of each word corresponds to the digits. What makes the feat more amazing is his poem is written [illegible] "Number" (Act 3) used for Albert Einstein, A Beauty, A Beauty" [with numbers 3, 1, 4, 1, 5] starts this way. Its [illegible] is used to describe

[illegible] is dreary to end and sorry.

Merely pondering solution unfolding all [illegible] lies.

Numbers may rather long may... the number [illegible]

Pi, an unusual interesting sound disturbing [illegible] number.

Then [illegible] listen to its [illegible] [illegible] exciting...enormous.

Agreed? For the rest of the poem, go to [illegible]

The [illegible] website [illegible] hours and even what he got out [illegible] Finally, you [illegible] colleagues, computer science professor Pablo Manalastas who sketched to the nth of pi.

From the mouth of babes

My friend Merlan Fernandez sends me [illegible] children's word play [illegible]

Three-year-old Pablo [illegible], "Did Eve [illegible] who does art in heaven, Mariah in the [illegible]

Mariah, now your oldie sinceres, "And he [illegible] to our Math Instructor, as we [illegible] those who put math in our [illegible]."

The prize: who 5-year-old Mariah, "Why doesn't [illegible] sinners in church?" Mariah [illegible] replies, "Because people are [illegible]."

Cartoon strip for words

My friend Alan Bainaglasi, computer [illegible] now in Virginia, recommends [illegible] which tells itself as "a [illegible] of sarcasm, romance, math and [illegible]." The site is fun and to its way [illegible] touching.

Each [illegible] a comic strip No. 162, on [illegible] and memorizing, [illegible] a guy tries on the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the word [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

PROPERTY

Edna Cesar D. Manganaan

SUBIC HOLIDAY Villas is a neo-tropical and self-contained four-decors leisure and retirement development inside the Freeport's zone.

Luring Subic investors, their families to stay much longer

By Charles E. Bahay

INVESTORS FLOCKING TO STAY AT the Subic Bay Freeport in the province of Zambales will find that the Forest United States naval base 130 kilometers southwest of Metro Manila offers more than just water recreation facilities, nature-oriented activities and bargain-hunting havens.

Recently, there is no shortage of property developers wanting to take advantage of the place's strategic location as well as steady arrival of investors and Metro Manila tourist-vacationers.

One of the newly opened developments is the Subic Holiday Villas, developed by Sea-land Properties Inc. and managed by Quantum Hotels and Resorts (www.quantumresorts.com).

The first phase, seven years, Quantum Hotels & Resorts has been successful with high-quality hospitality lodging, leasing managed lot properties such as the BSA Tower, Bob Siloso and Subic Mansion in the Central Business District and Quantum Hotel and Resorts Subic Bay, as well as Bangi City. The Subic Holiday Villas is one first managed development outside Metro Manila not to mention our first assignment in handling a resort-style development," said Joey Bernardino, VP for sales and marketing of Subic Holiday Villas.

Attract investors

He added that the Subic Holiday Villas seeks to attract investors as well as their families.

"Therefore, we are also taking a social media number of clients, Filipino-Americans and other foreigners who are now watching their retirement age and eventually either or seek to invest property inside the Subic Bay Freeport," Bernardino reported.

Located at the Orange Dewey Exercise Gunner Complex.

Edna Jones delights inside the Subic Bay Freeport. Subic Holiday Villas is a mas, neighborhood and self-contained four-bedroom leisure and retirement development that offers a wide variety of fully furnished rooms—from studio units to one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites.

The suites, erected in balconies, while the kitchens are ready with refrigerators, microwave ovens, toasters, ovens, glassware, cutlery and crockery. Furthermore, each unit is equipped with cable network television, individually controlled air-conditioning and hot and cold water in the elegantly tiled bathrooms," Bernardino reported.

Reasons

He explained that Subic Holiday Villas was developed for several reasons: to cater to investors and businessmen by providing them top-notched accommodations while in Subic Bay Freeport, there is even long-staying adventure-seekers by giving them resort-quality living and also for those who prefer to get away from hectic lifestyle and retirement by offering them a safe, laid back and clean environment, resort-sized good amenities and proximity to hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

Sandwiched by the Zambales mountain range at the east and the Subic Bay to the west (that opens up to the South China Sea), Subic Bay Freeport is remarkably sheltered from typhoons as well as from the devastating effects of the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991.

Because of this excellent location, Subic Bay Freeport has maintained its pace as a fast developing industrial and tourism destination as well as a major economical development hub for the provinces of Bataan, Mount Rizal, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales.

Special package

To attract even more clients Subic Holiday Villas recently announced a special package by offering introductory rates namely: P9,500 net/room for an overnight stay in a studio room, or a P4,750 net/room for one-bedroom, or a P6,000 net/room for the two-bedroom suite.

"Each of this package will include the use of tropical swimming pool, access to fitness centers, and dad's breakfast for two persons booking in the studio and one-bedroom rooms or for four persons in the two-bedroom suite," Bernardino informed.

He added that starting of the Christmas Holiday Villas is ideal as well as convenient, considering that the peso is even the dollars that Thais local and foreign guests will spend will go a long way thanks to Subic Bay Freeport's duty-free shops and supermarkets.

Here are six accredited facility of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority previous and redeemer tourists may await prospective investors especially foreign and former Filipino citizens, including ex-friends and family members.

Designing in a CADD-enabled world design dimensions

A WIDE VARIETY OF SOFTWARE has allowed design and architecture to break out of traditional forms and explore shapes that defy conventions. Thanks to newer, more sophisticated software that works on a building block sequence, forms—rather than lines—can now be built up and "colored" into drawings. Designers are able to play with moves that shapes and can now to translate complex forms documents with detailed accuracy. The whole process of designing and documentation has become quick, precise and creative.

The advantage proved immensely useful when we computerized the local Subic Bay Harbour, the South Luzon Expressway with overlapping roofs, with flat, flared one, curved glass windows and undulating overhangs. The design would have to left out one structure in designed some 20 years ago at the cost of pain it and paper, triangles and straight edges. But because we were able to produce in matrix "sheet" of the structure as they unveiled to understand the relationship of the building elements. On project was completed according to our design intent, and rolled out according to the client's timetable.

More recently, we thought it would be most appropriate for a Renaissance retail shop at Ayala Land's Tutuban Mall to have our version of a rolling trader's store. We designed a tube to capture the looks of the store while the opposite wall had an undulating curve performed with lit alcoves meant to take the shape display. The tunnel-lined open at the end, and the curving wall indulated at varying levels.

CADD readings

Many years ago—that refers to this type of equipment—lettering lines and sweeping planes would have taken weeks to accurately render by hand. Model's getting proportions right would have been daunting. Now doing it in a color would have been even more challenging as colors change when they pick up lights and shadows.

Of course, technology can never replace a designer's artistry and instincts/sense. In this regard, technology takes the back seat to human elements. The value of CADD (that's short for Computer-Aided Drafting and Design) is that it allows a designer, even at the moment of inception, to track what-ifs and correct work for the final output. Possibilities are quickly verified and no time is wasted by guesses.

Nothing drawings—the blueprinted documents used for bidding and construction and which could take as long as eight weeks to draw up—can now be produced in hours or of the time. Perspective drawings too, can now be completed in a few days—a process that has also made lighting effects. Best of all, CADD renderings are photo-real and can convey the design intent and subject very clearly to a client.

ST/2ST models of hotel are given designed by forward-thinking architect Zaha Hadid.

PRELIMINARY view of some studies for the Hill Flip Plaza retail shop

Dependent on contractors

While wood arrows generally don't need too elaborate support, architects and interior designers are highly dependent on contractors to translate their drawings into working blueprints. Otherwise, the detailed lines, 3D-scanned, lose much of their meaning. Today, however, computer-aided drafting and Designer is a boon to architects and interior designers as it helps communication and coordination between professionals and their clients.

"Back at the beginning of my career, I was doing drawings for projects that were never built because the clients couldn't afford them," recalled Isabel Bernagar Asuncion, a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas and a former professor at the College of Architecture. "I would spend days and days on a single drawing, and when the client saw it, he would say, 'Ang ganda, pero hindi ko kaya.' (It's beautiful, but I can't afford it.)"

Asuncion, who is now a principal at Design Dimensions, a Makati-based firm that specializes in commercial interiors, said that with CADD, she can show clients a project in its entirety, from the floor plan to the ceiling, and make changes on the spot. "Before, I would have to draw the ceiling plan separately, and it would take me days to finish it. Now, I can do it in a few hours," she said.

ARTIST'S first rendering of the Shell Retail Bank

The rainwater harvesting system

IN THIS COUNTRY WE HAVE SO much rain that every year we lose thousand cities and towns and yet there are water tables are low as the Grand Canyon's have a hundred inches.

While water is admittedly a source as the tropics, it is a fact that the Philippines has a clearly defined entry or of rainwater availability in most locations, in the form of rain. This rainwater is typically "wasted" by its flowing into underground sewers and storm drains, thereby without allowing the natural benefits there is a shortage of water.

A green building system that would be very useful in the Philippines would be the rainwater harvesting system. Such a system has the objective of collecting and storing rainwater for domestic uses at a later time. This is specially useful in lowering water bills during times of water shortage. It also lowers the volume of rainwater that goes through storm drain systems, while also reaping the environmental benefits of efficient water use.

Setting up system

The very first step would be to determine the intended uses of the stored water. Typically a rainwater harvesting system may be used for watering plants, flushing toilets and for laundry needs. It is also already possible to use rainwater for drinking, though this will entail additional treatment equipment. Different uses for the water will require different pre-treatment equipment.

The main idea behind the use of rainwater collection is the reduction of dependence on commercially available water. Water conservation is actually the municipal of surface waters, forcing users to look for other water utilities some at a price, it definitely wouldn't hurt to use rainwater as much as possible. Today many countries disapprove the consumption or use of using rainwater-treated water to irrigate the plants.

The setup of a rainwater harvesting system is basically composed of three subsystems: collection, storage and the distribution.

Rainwater collection

There are definitely many ways in which rainwater can be collected. The simplest form would be to have a drain or flush open during the rainy season by positioning cans. Other more sophisticated methods would include a coordinated network of gutters and downspouts that lead the rainwater collected from roof surfaces into a central cistern basin.

Roof surfaces that are most suitable for rainwater collection are those which are not made of materials that can easily dissolve into the water such as galvanized iron sheets. Roofs made of asphalt shingles are also not recommended because they may contain petroleum products that can contaminate the collected water.

The collection subsystem can also encompass rainwater and concrete downspouts that lead water to the cisternlike catch basin.

Rainwater storage

Rainwater is then stored underground once collection well by water. This is because gravity will bring the rainwater down to the storage tank without the need for pumps.

There are many options for rainwater storage tanks that include various types of tanks, like it or partially existing cisterns, septic tank tanks or even "swimming tanks. These components must be determined accurately for the whole system to work satisfactorily.

Rainwater distribution

Depending on the uses the rainwater is supposed to fill, the distribution subsystem will definitely have to be separate from the regular water pipes. Ground-level water conveyance need very little pressure for the water to get around, while higher floor needs such as second-story toilets will have to utilize a pump.

Other rainwater distribution methods would include sprinkler systems that are strategically located to maximize ground area covered while minimizing water expended and sleek pipelines to laundry facilities and flushing toilets on one or the garages for washing vehicles.

Other options

There are only the most ubiquitous systems for rainwater harvesting systems. It goes without saying that many alternatives are possible.

For example, having collecting storage tanks on higher levels may work to your advantage so that gravity will be the only force needed to distribute water to toilets, instead of using pumps to push water up from underground level storage tanks.

Cost-benefit analysis

Finally, a cost-benefit analysis is necessary to determine the viability of having a rainwater harvesting system. Definitely, it will be worthwhile to have a system about, and may even motivate a house's architecture values.

However, should it not be planned correctly, the initial expenses incurred in labor and installation may outweigh the water savings, by having a long payback period. Sometimes the energy costs of pumping water may also outweigh the amount of water saved. This is why it is important to have a system setup (using good materials) that is cost-effective.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail <antocharbay@gmail.com>.

A SIMPLE rainwater harvesting system is easy to implement. By connecting downspouts (or fences to collect) rainwater, water bills can be reduced while providing water for irrigating plants and flushing toilets. It is a practical way to save on expensive treated water

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Where to Stay Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Sweet temptations at InterContinental Manila

FEATURING A SWEET AFTERNOON, InterContinental Manila is now pastry chef Rolando "Mac" Macatangay brings to life his chocolate fantasies at the Café Jeepney this entire month of May. Pastry chef Mac is the newest addition to the InterContinental Manila family. Having worked in numerous 5-star hotels in the country, he brings with him over 20 years of experience in the Pastry department. He has reaped awards in various competitions such as Chefs on Parade, Host Asia Food Expo and the World Expo. Chef Mac also finds time to share his talents with others. He is currently teaching in a notable culinary school here in Manila. When asked why he chose pastry-making, he said that it pose no limitations to his creativity.

Besides of the lunch or dinner buffet at Café Jeepney and indulge in Chef Mac's line-up of sweet temptations such as Tiramisu Mud Pie, Chocolate Fondue, Chocolate and Mango Mousse-cake, Dulce Black Forest and Rhinelander Chocolate Truffle. For reservations please call 815-9711.

CHEF'S SPECIALS AT BENJARONG THAI RESTAURANT

From May 14 to 31, sample Benjarong's "Chef's Specials" prepared by Chef Ton, offered a la carte. On the menu are Yaam Mi Klong Wang (four kinds of appetizer), Khao Tom Yen Nua (hot noodles with sliced sautéed salad, Thai herbs and roast still sauce), Yen Sea Fai (prawn, fish, glass noodle, Chinese cabbage in egg soup), Pla Krapong Tord Kratiem Prik Thai (deep-fried whole seabass with garlic and pepper), and Moo Nor Sung (pineapple roasted pork). Benjarong Thai restaurant is located at the mezzanine level of Shangri-La Hotel Makati. For inquiries, call 887-3333.

Lamuro Resort, the best sunset experience in El Nido

LAMURO RESORT & SPA IS LOCATED IN EL NIDO BAY, 10 KMS. FROM the town of El Nido and just 15mins from the El Nido Airport. It is a beachfront luxury resort constructed to fit your perfect getaway. It is the most enchanting tropical retreat far away from the maddening din and hustle of city life. The rooms are well designed and priced reasonably. With a cozy accommodating staff around, who can resist the Lamuro experience. It offers a wholesome and splendid location for family holidays, honeymooners, and adventure seeking travelers who seek the ideal balance of comfort and natural wonders. It is indeed a tropical place, a perfect seaside haven for refreshing the body and soul. Most rooms perfect for sunset viewing as having the best sunset view. More of it, oriental, and cool similar to the breathtaking scenery. For more details, please call (+632) 892-7168/892-7170 or (0917) 627-4043.

MARCO POLO PLAZA BRINGS CEBU'S FINEST FOOD TO MANILA

Marco Polo Plaza, Cebu City's finest hotel, holds a culinary event entitled 'Flavors of Cebu' at its Tower Club, Makati from May 11 to 15. These of the hotel's top chefs fly to Manila to enhance the Continental Club's lunch buffet with signature Cebuano delicacies such as "pu-suh" or hanging rice, fresh seafood, mangoes, and of course, the renowned Cebu lechon, which will be chipped fresh daily during the event. In the daily raffle, diners will also get a chance to win exclusive Marco Polo items, as well as a weekend stay in Marco Polo's renowned Presidential Suites, complete with champagne, airport transfers, and free use of the pool and gym. For more information, call April Gonzales at (32)885-7681 or e-mail events@marcopolo.com.ph.

Plaid Sandwich Bar does a rare health convergence

LEISURE HUNTER DAVID WORRELL now has a way to get a healthy treat and fast. Plaid Sandwich Bar, an Filipino entrepreneur neighborhood eatery for good food, has found its fit 64-square meter area on the ground floor of the Grand Square Building on Ruby Road four other brands that complement its healthy breakfast and lunch menu. Rest has Healthy Plaid has just opened its fast food is food junction fitness buffs would just love to binge at.

It is a powerful guerrenum fusion as Plaid Fruit Magic's fruit and vegetable beverages are the freshest you can get. Pumpkin is in a fresh on sight for treats today: 100 percent pure fresh milk whipped with quality ingredients from fruity right before your eyes. 10 Fries and Dips uses its factory-processed potatoes but with nutrient rich skin on Idaho Russets Grade A Potatoes. Iron eaten the French fries. And honey's lemon syrup, their hotel mint-donuts only to cassis on easy to finish with an herb smell and taste.

At Plaid, people get the motivation to enjoy their carefriendly combinations. A quick and healthy burger lunch can be Plaid's Crabby Wabby, a delectable mix of Japanese crabmeat, mango, cucumber, dressing, mayo, lettuce and tomato squeezed into a pair of wheat bread, washed down with Total Blueberry green tea shots.

Plaid also offers special promotional packages for corporate meetings and parties. Call 687-5558 or 687-5002 for deliveries of set-up prices), high quality, healthy and tasty food... fast!

Things are getting so cool at Segafredo

FAMOUS-HOT GETTING TO COOL AT SEGAFREDO ESPRESSO BAR! MAKE THE PERFECT ICE COFFEE DURING HOT TIMES OR A treat the authentic Italian espresso bar that has Summer Promos galore to savour. There's a medley of exciting summer coolers – all new ice-cold fruity juices and drinks bursting with the season's luscious flavors. Guyat, Calabasas and Guyabanos all made from fresh fruits of the land quickly. There are also Granitas – what Segafredo calls its version of "ice berry" floating in the reliable and Cafe di Sapio espresso and ice cream, the way you like it. That's not all. There's always Segafredo's incomparable soft, creamy gelato to delight your senses. Indulge in Pistachio, Strawberry, Chamomile, Espresso with Irish Cream, Figs and mascarpone, Tiramisu, Choc Nut and Sugar-free Capuccino to cool hearts content. It's a cool deal and a cool treat for everyone. Segafredo Espresso Bar is open for summer treats from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Segafredo is also bringing back its 20 percent discount on Italian products along with the summer cooler experience. Offer is good till May 31 at all three Segafredo Espresso stores at Greenbelt 3 in Makati, the Second Level of Podium at Ortigas Center and at the I Tech Building in Greenhills along Ortigas Avenue near corner Wilson St. For more information on Segafredo call 892-5011 or visit www.segafredo.ph

Summer counts at the Subic Holiday Villas

spare from its area and celebrations, the best thing about a Subic vacation is having great accommodations. After all, what fun would there be in touring and shopping in the Freeport when your sleeping arrangements are not as great?

The Subic Holiday Villas, located at the Subic Bay Freeport offers excellent relaxation facilities and amenities for Subic aficionados. Managed by the renowned property management team Quantum Hotels and Resorts, Subic Holiday Villas boasts of its fully furnished studio units (studios, 1 and 2 bedrooms) complete with living, dining, and kitchen facilities. Introductory rates for an overnight stay in a studio room is at P1,500 any room, one bedroom is at P4,500 any room, and the two bedroom suite is at P6,000 any room. This includes use of tropical swimming pool, access to fitness centers, and daily breakfast for two persons. Reservations are on first-come, first-serve basis. Subic Holiday Villas is also offering a summer promo where you can avail of the 4-3-2-1 Summer Getaway Promo on going until May 31. Book a one bedroom or four suite for P4,000++ for the 1st night, P3,000++ for the 2nd night, P2,000++ for the 3rd night, and P1,000++ for the 4th night. This promo is applicable for a minimum of 2 nights' consecutive stay with the fourth night complimentary, a gift certificate which is valid until July 31. Above rate is subject to applicable taxes and service charge. Free entertainment are required subject to quotas and availability.

For more inquiries and reservations, contact 864-0941 or e-mail Quantum Hotels and Resorts at sales@quantumhotels.com or check out the website at www.quantumhotels.com.

Landbank launches ₱1-B fund for farm-based SMEs

Also sets aside ₱1B for equity in microfinance firms

By Doris C. Bongcac

THE STATE-OWNED LAND BANK of the Philippines has unveiled two new funding facilities worth P2 billion for microfinance banks and agri-based small and medium enterprises.

In a briefing Thursday night, Landbank president Eddie Pico said the bank recently obtained approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to offer P1 billion in equity infusion for nonstock/non-financial intermediary engaged in microfinance... the provision of small, uncollateralized loans to the poor to help them start their own businesses.

The second initiative, the P1-billion "Development Advocacy Program (DAP)," offers alternative and more flexible credit guidelines to suit the characteristics, requirements and paying capabilities of small farmers and fisherfolk as well as SME businesses.

The equity investment program is open to start-up enterprises, rural or thrift banks established by microfinance non-government organizations or cooperatives as well as those which have been in existence for two years and are affiliated with NGOs or cooperatives.

To be eligible for the program, which provides capital instead of loan, these banks must have a net-of-insurance portfolio of at least P20 million or 3,000 active non-insurance borrowers at the time of application.

"Through this equity investment program we have set up, Landbank is helping establish new and viable conduits that will cater to the microfinance sector," Pico said.

With this program, the said Landbank hoped to encourage microfinance NGOs or cooperatives to convert into either a thrift, rural or cooperative bank so that they could increase their reach delivery operations and expand their reach to include the marginalized sectors, specifically the small farmers and fisherfolk.

But as a condition for the equity infusion, the nonstock/non-financial institution must be able to triple its existing operations in service farming and other livelihood requirements of individual farmers or fisherfolk household within a period of three years from the date of release of Landbank's investment.

Those banks must also be able to maintain or build a loan portfolio, majority of which belongs to family of small farmers/fisherfolk or their household members.

The second initiative, DAP, is a commercial lending program that veers away from the rigid requirements of collateral-based lending. Instead, it adopts an enterprise-based approach in extending credit and other assistance to small farmers and fisherfolk.

PICO

"Through this innovative program, Landbank is providing our priority sectors with more avenues and initiatives to encourage them to engage in productive activities to help augment their income. In essence, we are also giving the option lately to assist their poor households," Pico said.

DAP will provide funds for working capital or fixed asset acquisition requirements of cooperatives, federations, associations, NGOs as well as SMEs. The lending facility may be gradually increased based on repayment record and project success.

The program intends to support viable projects with established markets that banks may of accredited lending modes such as receivables financing, purchase order financing and household cashflow-based/ financing as well as those that make use of credit enhancement guarantee facilities under various contracts or guarantee covers.

Meanwhile, Landbank also announced on Thursday a net profit of P1.16 billion for the first quarter, up 16 percent from the P998 million in the same period last year.

This attributed the growth to an increase in fee-based income, reduction in operating expenses by P93 million as well as lower interest expense on deposits.

For the full year, Pico said the bank has set an internal net profit target at P4 billion. This year's earnings were expected to be supported by increases in loans and investments.

As for the first quarter, the bank's revenues inched up by 3 percent to P6.35 billion from a year ago, while the slowdown in interest rates reduced its interest expense on deposits and borrowed funds by 16 and 20 percent, respectively.

"The bank also continued to aggressively expand its deposit and loan portfolios," Pico said.

She noted that in the first three months, deposits reached P280.0 billion, or 10 percent higher than the deposits generated in the same period last year. Capital also rose by 25 percent to P34 billion from P27 billion in the first quarter of 2006.

Landbank's total assets as of end-March rose by 23 percent to P367 billion versus a year ago.

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OBITUARIES

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JORGE MA. CUI y PERALES

Tenth Anniversary of his Birth to Eternal Life

On the 19th of May 2007, Masses and prayers will be offered at Mary Mother of Good Counsel Church, Mercedes Upper Village, Parañaque City; Our Lady of Beautiful Love Church, Mayvelle Park, Parañaque City; and at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

We are grateful to all who keep our beloved JORGE in their memory and who continue to pray for him.

Chesing, Jojo & Nanette, Mardie & Greta†, Tetta & Angie, Bobby & Paulette, Migue & Tricia, Leo & Globa, Mardie† and Pepe, grandma, granddaughters, great-grandma and great-granddaughters

Marcela De Vera Celestino

of Meridian, Bolinao

30 Oct. 1906 - 16 May 2007

Peacefully joined our Creator on 16 May 2007. Her loving children, Gloria, Lutgarda, and Manuel; grandsons Jorge, and other relatives and friends hereby mourn her passing and request to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the Sandi Way Interim Chapel of the Immaculate Heart, Bolinao, Anaheim, CA.

Interment will be on 20 May 2007 at 10:00AM, Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, after the 11:00AM Mass at the Basilica Int.

BUSINESS

BIR to probe tax payments of insurance companies

Exec notes 60% drop in collections despite sector's profit growth

By Michelle V Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has tasked the Bureau of Internal Revenue to look into the tax compliance of insurance companies after it found out that premium taxes collected from the industry fell 60 percent in the first quarter from a year ago despite reported growth in sales.

"We cannot understand why taxes collected from the industry dropped by about 60 percent when many of them reported double-digit growth in earnings," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said.

Without mentioning names, Beltran noted that the biggest players in the industry posted growth of anywhere between 17 and 20 percent in net income in the first quarter. The increase was assumed to be a result of higher sales of insurance policies, he said.

Beltran said the BIR could use its new tax audit system to detect which companies should be subjected to tighter investigations.

Under the BIR's benchmarking auditing method, the tax collecting agency uses a benchmark ratio between taxes paid and income earned. If one corporate taxpayer's tax remittance falls substantially below the benchmark, then it will be subjected to investigations.

Beltran said the BIR should link up its database with that of the Insurance Commission and other government agencies that can provide tax-related information. He said the Insurance Commission has already expressed willingness to assist the BIR in the conduct of a tax audit.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buting said he officials already embarked on several initiatives to enhance its auditing and tax collection efforts.

He said the BIR would soon conducting an inquiry into the tax compliance of the insurance industry and other sectors whose members were also suspected of avoiding the payment of proper taxes.

The National Program Support for Tax Administration Reform (NPSTAR), which was launched the other day, involves activities that will strengthen the BIR's ability to collect taxes, such as by upholding its taxpayers database.

Government is hopeful that insurance firms' new tax policy, Project Tatag, Executive Life Association Co. Inc. said many businesses that now generate a high percentage of their income from investment-linked insurance products rather than pure insurance products.

The life insurer, growth in income by an insurance firm does not necessarily mean it invested an income in the collection of premiums.

A piece of Inner Peace

A home that's a haven

Getting away from the stresses of work means finding your own private sanctuary. One that allows you to unwind after a long day and leisurely recharge for the next while being surrounded by a relaxing ambiance and a loving family. A haven that relaxes your body, clears your mind and refreshes your soul. Some call paradise. Others call it Raya Garden Condominiums.

The beauty of that, the comforts at home

Very few places in the metro can give you the rest and relaxation that Raya Garden Condominiums offers. The relaxing Balinese theme is taken throughout the community and its amenities. The Infinity Edge Plunge Pool, Waterwise Garden, Lotus Pond, Bridge Walkway and Meditation Pavilion will leave you with a calming effect. And if you want to stay healthy and active, the fitness gym and basketball court are close by. Put it any just like by hang out or entertain friends, a multi-purpose clubhouse, Grand Pavilion with reception, indoor dining hall, an audio and video room, a play hall and a multi-purpose hall is available for your private use. You can enjoy all these amenities without fear or worry as Raya Garden Condominiums enjoys 24-hour security that starts at its guarded main entrance.

Another reading feature is its financing plan. You can already call Raya Garden Condominiums "home" by making only a down payment of as low as 10% plus a 2-year warranty.

As a thriving community, Raya Garden Condominiums brings the convenience of the Makati CBD and Bonifacio Global City in close proximity. Also with panoramic views of the Manila Bay and Cavite skyline, conveniently nearby near major roads like C5, NAIA and SLEX, travel is never stressful.

Strong heritage, stress-free living

Even more relaxing and reassuring is the fact that Raya Garden Condominiums is a project of the country's only triple-A builder/developer DMCI Homes. With DMCI Homes' continued commitment to creating urban-friendly, premium-quality homes that cater to discriminating customers' needs, you can rest easy knowing you've made a smart choice.

Home should be a place where you can seek peace and refuge. Where you can rest, relax and revitalize so you're ready for whatever life has in store for you. At Raya Garden Condominiums, you can escape the stress and rejuvenate your soul with this beautiful Balinese-inspired design. Our three 5-storey mid-rise buildings and two 15-storey towers provide you with a resort-residential environment and wide landscaped spaces.

Call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com to get your own sanctuary now.

Raya Garden Condominiums

A Smart Living concept by:

DMCI HOMES

Because you deserve

Super

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

hello Dolly

Rufa Mae Quinto page C2 plays Super! Barbie

Super! presents the winners (page 31) of **Nokia style!**

I am Super! awardees **RockEd's** page 32 election campaign

Liquor ban grants us license to Super! **chill** page C2

Produced by: TIM YAP
Photographer: BOBBY HABITA
Design Editor: DAVID ROJAS
Stylist: RICO GUILLO
Makeup: LYN CARDO and EMILA RAMOS for MAC Cosmetics
Hair: WARREN LUSTRE
Cover Text: RUFA MAE QUINTO

Winning Forms

Meet the 2007 Century Tuna Superbods Ram Sagad & Patty Ortega, the hottest bodies in the Superbods Bonacay finals and the best embodiment of the Century Tuna healthy lifestyle

Who's your dolly!?

GLAM ME UP BARBIE. Rufa Mae Quinto in the flesh

PLASTIC FANTASTIC. Rufa Mae also flaunts it as a motion-model sex girl.

Rufa Mae took role play to the next level—by becoming the doll herself

By Pinoy Lowkeyadas

IN BARBIE WORLD AS IN Wonderland, everything's gorgeous; bigger hair, louder colors, and bubbly personalities as fashionistas in strollers coo-ooo-ed from racks-to-racks. And where possibility coexists with impossibility, a girl is awed with a Barbie doll can slip the sucker into a slim-right manner, have it cruise serious] in a hot pink convertible and get it to play tongue twister] hockey with the cutest kids, did it look to pointed eyes to. Every girl loves Barbie because she can have everything, do anything and aren't supervised—be anything.

Barbie vies at the Guiss

But while most girls eventually leave the fantasies of makeovers to the Sulu Miss Quinto took it to the next level when going visit any Barbie as a 7-year-old girl so serious to be told herself "Barbie model of no Barbie," she says with the signature inflection that can either terrorize or make you giggle. "Night-night ako. Wala ako time. Sexy ang schedule mo na, everything, my Barbie".

There's no digging the confusion between Barbie and Rufa. Both large eyes, spindly arms, and skin so white and smooth it almost seem duplicitous, but this would pass for a life-sized doll herself. The makeup artist working in some stained room under Rufa Mae's close quarters called contact lenses (yes, another) to her for new little pinching. Rufa Mae sweetpea this, of course-sting ones and injection with her hands folded neatly on her lap-as posing the role for her love is pivoting as a role for for the all-too-human, pun-loving of comedienne somehow Mel C and Kimberly's most unglamorous doll for the Barbie lover M.I.C make-up line.

What's more, being the country's most celebrated sex comedienne is also to owing every girl's favorite doll. You'd need to be a close-set character for people to underestand and relate you. To, in Rufa Mae's case, love the bubble of sexuality that her clothes as Barbie enjoyed the people' has as fuss in the process. "Parang in a jar

RUFA MAE QUINTO

If I was Barbie, would be... (name young stars, Barbie style)

My first Barbie was... the ordinary one... pero kasi sosi Barbie

My most favorite outfit costume of... make and outfit" Rufa's Outfit to Hair Salon Barbie, ordinary. If many white shirt and jeans

My number one luxury item is... ...the closet!

The beauty product I cannot live without is... Bare Minerals! Kit. And nail polish! Kasi pag nakita ko nail polish, I must have nail polish! Kahit anong kulay!

My love is... Rufa is! Napakamot! Sabi ng mother! Sino si Rufa? Sino si Rufa? I don't know! Sabi ng mother ko, I don't know!

My most embarrassing moment was... ...when I was performing in front of people.

My biggest indulgence is... food!

My dream Barbie world is... Richard Gutierrez! Ang sarap ng pag-kiss! Sarap! Sabihin mo ang sa akin, Sabi ko!

The most thing someone said about me was... I also heard that I'm mean to Sam! Sam! Excuse me, Sam! Sam! Sam! Before I was tempted, but my ex is Richard Gutierrez! Sam! Sam! Sam

Lost World

IF YOUR SUMMER WAS filled with decadent weekends of debauchery in Boracay, here's one way to repent for the season's self-indulgences. Save the world by embarking on WWF-Philippines' World Heritage Expedition through the Sulu Sea.

A unique fundraising effort to keep the Tubbataha Reef alive, the five-day expedition aboard The Minerva is state of the art (WWF staunch would) will take whenever across unexplored territories from Palawan to Sulu, including three Unesco World Heritage Sites carefully designed in collaboration with numerous outdoor Asian Gang, this pioneering one offers an awe-inspiring package that will open up the Cagayancillo islets archipelago and Tubbataha Reef to non-divers for the first time in history.

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuesta-Dorio

In the waters of Tubbataha Reef, aquatic creatures become life learning lessons the waters. In Puerto Princesa, a hidden cavern harnessing through a mountain reveals the longest underground river in the world. In the 121-year-old Miag-ao Roman Church in Iloilo, discover the religious structure's secret legends and ancient history, which are delicately carved into Baroque Romanesque façade.

Idyllic white sand beaches can wait another day, but the preservation of the Sulu Sea's natural wonders cannot. The final expedition of 2007 will take place from June 8 to 13. To reserve a slot on this once-in-a-lifetime journey, call 920-7022 or visit www.wwf.org.ph.

More Super! 24/7 events:

May 19, Saturday

Atmosfear Apparel Bar Tour with Cult: Underground Convergence of Watchmen 120, Kats Int. Arts and Crafts Workshop, Swimming for Beginners at Mueni and Kids fun at SM Megamall Rufle Mansanay, SJ Ortiz Mixing of Contrasts: Rock, Saxophone & street performers of Senorito, Soundsquad Club at Embassy Cubao, Karat Market & Bio Flavor at Bamboo Bar, Cito Jan Herrera & Zeta Bodoy at Theatre Ambulante, Car Club Events at Bonifacio High Street

May 20, Sunday

World Press Photo 2007 exhibit at SM North Edsa, Saxophone at Greenbelt 3 & 5

Yuji Ikuno Duos, Bonsai no cosa pan-cake contest, Alaska Foods Camp, Magnolia's my mommy best sandwich relays at Works and Kids fun at SM Megamall's Kidz stARTS Quartet at Serendra, Bones Rhino at Café Havana Greenbelt

May 21, Monday

Happy Mondays hosted by Ninja Mansion at Embassy Cubao | Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Nil at Gerilla Makati | Electrical Underground at Asenta

May 22, Tuesday

Dimmsimar w/ Dr.K & guest DJs at Fusion Sandwich at Miag-ao Cafe

Kalbuman: Gordon Royale w/ Ed Maneja | Dark at Empress Suites | Jazz Night at Mezza

May 23, Wednesday

Atmosfear Apparel Bar Tour at Embassy Cubao, House of Soul w/ Dino Reign Mariano

& Jason Duong at Fire, Soul Centro 3 w/ Celebrity at Mehrmaier GC, Cito Karl Ty & Dan Crumpton at Embassy Cubao, Latin Smooth Grill at Eastside | DJ Mario Garcia at Rock Candy | DJs Mars Miranda & Johnny Ice at Embassy Club, Pi Bar at Café Havana Greenbelt

May 24, Thursday

Sandwich & Patchwork Centro, MPC Quartet at Greenbelt 3 & 5, DFT at Miag-ao Café Kalbuman: Reggae Matinees at Café Havana Greenbelt | Wet N Yummi Hyundai at Wet

May 25, Friday

Electro Choke w/ DJs Adrian Gomez & Mr. Badbloc at Mr.Cafe | Chill by the Bay w/ live bands & performers at SM Mall of Asia | Y-Jazz at Greenbelt 2 & 3, Sandwich at Rockwell Mr Bibi, Noise Sessions at Fashion's Dr. Martin Garcia at Embassy Cubao, Joe Vs days at Temple, Bo'ka at Café Havana Greenbelt

Schedules may change without prior notice. For a complete listing of events, call 247-2222 to 2551 (Ext.) and 2557 (Direct). Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mg24-7.com, mag24_7@yahoo.com, and Aaron.Yap@gmail.com

BATH TIME IS FUN TIME

If you are new to the baby-bathing scene, EQ Dry makes it easy for mommies to face this challenge and make it a happy routine for both baby and mommy.

First, line your baby wash, bath sponge, cloth towel, rubber toys beside your bath tub for easy access. Next, check if the water temperature is just right before letting baby in to the tub. For babies up to six months old, fill the bath tub with only up to five inches of water with his shoulders covered with warm water. For older babies, fill the bath no more than waist-high as a safety precaution. Finally, place your bath mat and slippers near the tub so babies don't slip when they get out of the water!

After undressing your baby, carefully place baby in the bath tub using one hand to support his neck and head. Use only a little amount of soap and wash him with the sponge from top to bottom and front to back. Use a wet, soapy cloth to clean his scalp and moistened cotton wool for his eyes and face. After soaping, rinse your baby thoroughly and wrap him in a towel or bath robe and pat him dry.

Bath time for babies is all about fun and play. Make this a part of baby's routine so that when he grows up, he'll appreciate the comforts of healthy hygiene. And with EQ Dry diaper, babies will surely look forward to bath time with their EQ Dry Bath Time Buddies!

Happy si baby, happy si mommy!

EQ Dry
BATH TIME Buddies

Make bathing fun for your baby, get these bath time buddies for FREE with every purchase of EQ Dry!

FREE DELIVERY

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. You can join by simply collecting wrappers with intact points of **EQ Dry Baby Diaper with colored cloth-like cover**. Points per packaging are as follows:

EQ DRY BABY DIAPER	LABEL POINTS
Newborn Size (up to 5 kg)	10 pts
Small Size (4kg-8kg)	10 pts
Medium Size (6kg-12kg)	10 pts
Large Size (9kg-15kg)	10 pts
Extra Large Size (12kg-17kg)	10 pts

2. You must collect the corresponding points to be able to get one (1) collectible item:

ITEM	POINTS
Bathroom Mat (Big Frog / Duck / Turtle)	70 pts
Bath Pillow (Big Frog / Duck / Turtle)	70 pts
Bath Mitt Mascot (Big Frog / Duck / Turtle)	70 pts
Bath Sponge (Big Frog / Duck / Turtle)	70 pts

* Only wrappers with intact points of **EQ Dry Baby Diaper with colored cloth-like cover** will be accepted.
* Entries containing colored points will NOT be accepted.
* Entries containing partial wrappers, wrappers combined with tears or mutilated or torn wrappers or unused wrappers will NOT be accepted.

3. Submit the required **EQ Dry Baby Diaper with colored cloth-like cover** wrappers together with the complete information written on a piece of paper: sender's name, complete address, telephone and/or mobile phone numbers, baby's name and age, signature of parent/guardian plus the nearest premiere items enclosed in an envelope. Please include landmarks for hard to find locations.

4. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:

"EQ DRY Bath Time Buddies"
JS Ultimate Merchandise, Inc.
1st Floor Ruffles Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City 1605

Or

"EQ DRY Bath Time Buddies"
P.O. Box 11280 Pasig City

5. The chosen premium items will be delivered FREE of charge by JRS Express to the address submitted by the sender. In the event that the sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium items in behalf of the sender.

OTHER AVAILABLE DESIGNS:

6. Entries this mail must be received on or before July 31, 2007 to qualify. Hand delivered entries must be received on or before July 15, 2007 to qualify.

7. Premium items will be delivered until September 30, 2007.

8. You may join the promo as many times as you want.

9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

PROMO PERIOD:
April 16 to July 15, 2007

OPEN this window to the French Spring in Manila. Artworks by Phyllis Zabulbura

SuperSelections

Summer windows, short reads

Chase the heat away with colorful artwork, short stories, America Ferrera and the horrors of the rage virus

By Pam Pastor

View...

...The Windows Of Summer by Phyllis Zabulbura exhibit which will run at the Alliance Française Fine Gallery from May 23 to June 25. Let yourself be entranced by the use of colors and lines—the artwork might even help you forget about the heat.

Read...

The latest issue of Story Philippines, the quarterly magazine that's packed with great clean reads from Filipino writers in English, has a year's subscription for P640 and comes with a free gift. Story Philippines Magazine is available in all major bookstores (National Bookstore, Fully Booked, A Different Bookstore, etc.) and magazine stands nationwide.

Watch...

...Ugly Betty on Studio 23. We're hooked, hooked, hooked. There's nothing ugly about Betty Suarez except for her fashion sense. America Ferrera's role was recently nominated for a Golden Globe.

Catch...

...28 Weeks Later. Make sure you don't spill your popcorn while you're watching. It's pretty awesome for a sequel. And we're keeping our fingers crossed for a third serving.

Super

style . urban living . pop culture . ent

Style, you're Super!

ASHLEY and

Ashley and Santiago may rock two different ends of the fashion spectrum but they're both Super! and they both win new Nokia 6300 phones

By Pam Pascor

FOR WEEKS, SUPER! AND Nokia asked you to show us your style by sending photos our way.

We weren't disappointed. You shrouded your style like pros and we had such a blast checking out your creatively realized fashion. The result is, we wish we can give more Nokia 6300 phones to all of you who entered.

Picking the winners was almost as hard as deciding who to vote for last Monday for eurovision re-inaugural.

Eighteen-year-old Mona Ashley Cyril Eurasia of Marikina sent us over with her flair for art and love for color. Her pen-sonality just pops. Her tattoo: "I'm a happy-go-lucky person. I like anything that has to do with visual arts like drawing, painting, and photography. I am fascinated by every color that I see around me. My personal style is inspired by the electronic and fun world of the arts. My fashion idol is Kate Tomelty, actor and singer Rich showed me but I still make sure that I keep it clean, simple, and modern just like the new Nokia 6300. Always remember that style isn't about the fashionable clothes and accessories you wear, it's about having a lot of confidence what ever you're wearing."

On the darker, more subdued end of the fashion spectrum, we loved 27-year-old Santiago Tiongco III's vintage look, like photos and captions inside our story.

Congratulations, Ashley and Santiago. You will soon be rockin' your new Nokia 6300. Super! will contact you on how to claim your prize.

DALISAY NA DAKILA / Ang pagsisi pero sa akin!

SCENES From a cappella fad rocking night as captured by Mon Gaviola's camera

No rest for Rock Ed

First, a huge concert demanding for clean elections. Now, a concert series reminding politicians to keep their promises. Rock Ed doesn't rest—and we shouldn't either

By Pete Pastor
Photos by Jun Evangelista, Mon Gaviola and Ranelle of Lowercasefilo

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN you have something to say? You make sure you are heard.

That's exactly what Rock Ed did last week during the Malinis Please concert.

Killer combination

And because it has been proven time and again that the adults in that country have a hard time listening to the young ones, Rock Ed decided to put together a killer combination that is impossible to ignore: an eight-hour showcase of music, images and videos that is intended for clean and honest elections.

The city didn't disappoint... it rained. Just the 20,000 people who attended the event in Araneta Coliseum didn't care. "Everyone is behaved," Rock Ed's Gang Badoy said. "We had no crash guards, no set in front of the stage and not a lot of security but it was so peaceful. It was great. They were well-behaved but the concert was still rocking! The students rocked, pero walang gulo. I think it's also because we asked people to come in white and because they signed agreements that they will rock in peace when they download to the entry forms."

Gang also had nothing but good things to say about the musicians who have shown Rock Ed's projects tremendous support. "The musicians in the Philippine band scene (are underrated. Out there voices carry. They know that they have the power and responsibility to influence the young to be more active involved. From the start, Rock Ed has always challenged the rock stars, 'I always ask them, "Do you deserve that microphone? Do you deserve your audience?" What does your music stand for?' And the musicians have delivered more than I imagined. They have been generous with their talent. Many of them even made the adversaries before performing. They came with their own opinions and stands on issues involving the young. I have a feeling the term 'rock star'-ego' will mean an entirely different thing in the near future. Eventually, it will indicate compassion, genius, kindness instead of self-serving ego-involved, and conceited."

Super! asked Shoshi from Lowercasefilo to capture the evening with their beloved toy cameras. Lowercasefilo also played a role in the Malinis Please event, by presenting a slideshow of gripping and goosebump-inducing images taken by its members.

Not over

Just because the elections are over doesn't mean Rock Ed's work is done. Next on their agenda is reminding politicians to turn all their campaign promises into concrete reality. "Rock Ed will support the local officials for as long as they keep their promises," Gang said.

And as they are launching the Keep Your Promises concert series, which is premiered by Rock Ed Radio. The fun starts at Big Sky Wind today, 8 p.m. Bands playing include Sarandie, Jheroulles, Quadro, Gringo Honduras and more. Entrance is free but people are requested to bring books, used clothes or funds for survivors. Other concerts will be in Eastwood on June 8 and Ayala on June 28. On June 30, Rock Ed will stage its anniversary concert called One Rock Ed Nation. A number of musical acts including Radioactive Sago Project, Uptherians Bones, Grinding Stones, Sweet and Musical and other Terms Recording Artists will be joining the series. "It's also part of the Keep Your Promises series," Gang said. "I hope the energy from all these gigs translates to real involvement to the future. This is just where we start."

Music is just the start

She added, "The Rock Ed population realizes that concerts and gigs are not enough to push real changes. But we know the power of music. Music gathers people, people gather dreams, dreams become decisions and decisions can become projects. Projects can translate to better lives sometimes. So we can't stop now. We can't stop not participating and not calling for participation of the youth after elections. It's the best time to demand for integrity from politicians. After the polls is when integrity and participation count the most."

Hit www.rockedphilippines.org and www.wilderbuds.com. Listen to Rock Ed Radio (hosted by Gang Badoy and Lourd de Veyra) on 90.7/97.1 Rockpool Radio.

Is your child Gifted?

Parents should not assume gifted means be outstanding in all these characteristics. However, if your child exhibits a majority of the characteristics below, he/she is not only gifted but understanding his needs and providing a good learning environment, proper care of the right nutrition.

Proper Care and Nutrition

Providing proper care means responding to a potentially gifted child's needs accordingly. You can provide the proper tools and models for creative outlets. You can also encourage and stimulate the creativity by introducing interesting activities and taking him to new places. When you know exactly what is bothering that your child is talented, you may opt to have him evaluated by a professional psychologist to determine if he is indeed gifted. That way, you're better able to provide for the student's needs.

To help nurture his potential and ensure his optimal development, you can hire the proper nourishment early on. You will help support his brain development and maintain needs. It is also formula recommended for children 3 years and up is Promil Pre-School. Promil Pre-School Formula 3 is a good blend of nutrients suitable for young children who are in pre-deal stage for developing his gift. Promil Pre-School helps to help support and improve concentration, reasoning and attention skills, vision and visual memory.

Together, let us nurture the gift

The perfect gift for your child's gift from Promil Pre-School, combined with your guidance and proper care, will not only help nurture his gift but development, but also help nurture his gift.

So whether his interests include playing with blocks, a bit guitar or scribbling on your walls, see if he is gift waiting to blossom. Along with the recommended products, Promil Pre-School can help you nurture the gift in your child.

How to hold a seven-p

WHILE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE spent their energy stressing over the latest Idol Mutday, Rock Ed head Gang Badoy had another idea.

"We decided to guard the ballot dit formally," Gang said in her blog (namandi.blogspot.com).

Because staging a street demanding clean elections isn't enough (what is enough for Rock Ed, really?), Gang decided to hold a seven-person rally. Yes, seven. Bong rally wasn't really nothing rally pero merong dapat (me rally," she said.

She gathered six of her friends ("friends who are passionate about honest elections," she stressed)—Jay Mika, Mark, Gerbert, Shoshi and Lourd—and together they brought the Malinis Please rap to different places in the city, documenting the whole trip by taking photos and videos.

Their stops? The Freedom Shrine by White Plains, Manila Cathedral, the Comelec office, numerous monuments, a police station, Roxas Boulevard, the CCP.

C2 Live Life Series:

Summer Escapades

Refreshing sunny day getaways

While the hot sun was beating down on summer revelers, C2 Green Tea made the season cooler with its Live Life Series: Summer Escapades at the country's most beautiful beaches. With a sizzling kick-off party held in Eastwood City, the C2 Live Life Series: Summer Escapades was a refreshing presence in Boracay, Cebu, Bohol, Subic, La Union, Davao, and Puerto Galera, as it brought with it healthy drinks, summer gear, and cool beach music.

Apart from enjoying the delicious flavors of C2 Green Tea, drinkers were given the chance to win trips to the best local beaches. For the grand prize, a lucky winner will enjoy another summer escapade in Palau, Micronesia for two.

The beaches were decked in cool green, with the C2 Green Tea booth and banners dotting the shores. Party people also walked around adorned with C2 Green Tea's premium summer accessories. During the day, beach bums who were spotted decked out in these items were given raffle tickets. At night, bar patrons gamely switched their drinks for C2 Green Tea's latest variants and got to enjoy special gifts from the C2 Green Tea models.

With sun, sand, and healthy brewed natural green tea leaves, C2 Green Tea truly knows best when it comes to real invigorating refreshment. Enjoy a deliciously healthy lifestyle with C2 Green Tea!

The Oriental Place is your all access pass to the Makati CBD. It's walking distance from business centers and shopping hubs. Good times are always around the corner because you're close to the best hangouts and cinemas in the city. Getting anywhere will be a breeze because all types of transportation are sure to be available along Chino Roces. The Oriental Place is perfectly located to give you more time to live your ideal urban lifestyle.

Give yourself more time while having the time of your life.

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ROCKIN' SUMMER SALE
April 27 - June 3, 2007

The world is a jungle gym

More than running, jumping, vaulting, and climbing, parkour is an art that helps develop your self-confidence and allows you to overcome obstacles

FLIGHT PLAN. David Belle, the 34-year-old originator of parkour doing what he does best

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

SOMETIME IN THE 60s, A French teen by the name of David Belle daydreamed about escaping from difficult scenarios by using his own strength. Largely influenced by his father, Raymond, an army soldier and certified jock, he gradually built his skills in gymnastics, martial arts, and other action-oriented activities. At the ripe old age of 15, David used those experiences—as well as stories of his dad's obstacle course training in Vietnam—to develop a way useful space, parkour.

Shorthand for the French phrase parcours du combattant, which roughly means military obstacle course, parkour is a young sport—a utility art, if you will—that involves navigating from point A to point B with superhero like efficiency and agility. In parkour lingo, the spry and bouncy people who practice it are known as traceurs; they are often daredevil dudes in their late teens and twenties. But more than doing insane jumps between buildings or finally leapfrogging over park benches, parkour is also a philosophy that helps develop self-confidence in their everyday obstacles—physical, mental, relational.

Parkour in pop culture

Through parkour, traceurs break free from the monotonous threat done by urban planning. A normal person may see boxy buildings, chain-link fences, and concrete monoliths; a traceur will only see a giant jungle gym, a world of possibilities and challenges. After all, parkour is something all of us did as kids—swinging from trees and scaling walls like monkeys—long before we were told not to.

It was "Yamakasi," a 2001 Luc Besson film about modern samurais who engage in amazing heights that stoked the buzz and slowly shifted parkour into the realm of popular consciousness. Following that, originator David Belle appeared in an action British TV channel BBC1. Then in 2003, the documentary "Jump London" dropped, starring Jason Wiggins, Sébastien Foucan, and 20-hooters Traceurs. The films' collaborators and hordes hailed nearly as feature's push for their teams, inspir-

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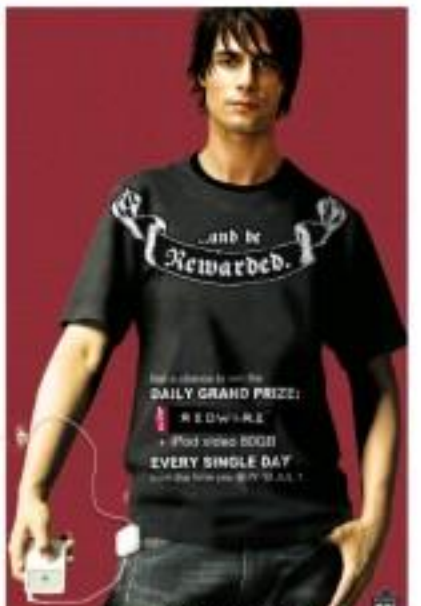

ADIÓS EX PRESS. Hosts Tupas with his last girlfriend

QQ WITH THE NOW. Pauline Sarmiento dancing at Mabi with Pete bar owner Tata Luring

THE ONE AND ONLY. Champ of Hale in Iloilo City

HAKI'S HAM. Most eligible bachelor Tito Lopez

SOUTHERN SEDUCTION. Sue Ire Pressels, Nay Pedro and Vincent Asedon dining at Mabi

We do have a role to play in society - nothing is considered small, as everyone can make a difference

License to chill

Tim Yap

SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE the elections, over dinner to welcome friends from Paris to Prague, the conversation turned from pleasantries to panic, when everyone realized there was only one hour to go before the two words that was considered to be the most crucial part of the night would hit.

"Super ban." I never knew these two words can strike that much fear in the eyes (and mouths) of many. I have survived quite a number of "Super bans," and I've lived to tell the story. To be honest, it has never really affected me. Unless I am happy to drink my share of supersuero (a.k.a. any dirt drink)...just to correct any druggie misconceptions and that small dosage of caffeine can last me until the humility of Sunday's premier Mass.

STILL THE BEST WAIT TO FLY. 15 minutes and you're up there with Emilio

So each minute went by, every sip counted. People went on a fact-finding binge just to make sure they had enough stock of alcohol to last them the night. It was panic buying like there was no tomorrow (unlike all the times, I looked at Super's Tide Stats, and are just gone each other the "look." "There are more pressing issues, ladies and gents," I announced over the table. "It's the elections on Monday! There was a second of silence, and then the general dinner conversation continued. As if nothing was happening, because the people were scared of... the Super ban.

"There's no liquor ban in Greenhills!" someone announced proudly. "Maybe we should go there!" "Yes, foreigners included!" "Some of our friends live in Boracay for the holiday weekend." "Eh, it won't holiday weekend, hello—it's election weekend. And I proceeded to ask the rabble of 14 on who is registered to vote. Two hands were raised proudly, a glass of vodka dropped in their other hand.

Voting trip

I sat beside Khaira Matawaran, who now resides in Prague, with her partner Thomas Hupertsen, who manages the European operations for a student energy line based in the Czech Republic. Before flying back to Manila, Khaira made sure she was able to vote already. She is a registered voter in the Czech Republic, much like a total of 50 Filipinos recorded. Even in my recent trips to Bikol where I made sure to sit down and talk to the Filipino community I would meet, their prevalent question was, "Who are you voting for?"

In my non-scientific but happy state, it made me wonder about the so-called apathy of this generation—or just the people around my table that I be accused once again of "problema" guilt). All of a sudden, people scrambled to get liquor just because there was a ban. All of a sudden, people chose to vote for kinds-taken-to-be-lawmakers.

During elections, it is the natural thing to put the dirty spotlight on the candidates, asking them to question their motives, asking us to question their motives. While I do admit that these things are part and parcel of the election process, we should also look at ourselves and see how our previous vote can make a difference. We do have a role to play in society—nothing is considered small, as everyone can make a difference. As Super's Pepe Diokno wrote in his article urging our generation to register, "If you don't register, you don't vote. If you don't vote—then you have no right to complain." Stahl said.

Cafe Med and Maki

I've been on a domestic jaunt trail recently—and some moments are unforgettable. It may longer than the indelible ink from post-voting process.

Still, fresh from my camera phone memory are photos from Iloilo where I stopped by the Mall, the Japanese food hotspot in the hot side of town. The Gopez weekend car into his new venture while business partner Pauline Sarmiento-Bacosing showed us the kitchen—the cleanest and most orderly I've seen. "Hay, they run a tight ship. And why not, when Abki takes pride in serving the best sushi in the center of Iloilo town.

That night, we hopped to one done party spot. Wow—there I was, process right in my version that the most beautiful Filipinas live in Iloilo and Bacolod. Okay, other cities, please be with you. Champ of the hunt Hale even popped by for a visit, and agreed with me on my opinion of the Ilonggos as our toasted the night with good friends and great vibes.

MAKI BABI. Must try! Japanese food this stylish side of the world

In this page you'll see snaps from both Iloilo and Boracay party hops. The fotos photos are courtesy of Pamela Duero's underwater shooters, all taken within the confines of Cafe Med, now manned by formerly Manila-based Mark Tambago. His bro, DJ Arni Tambago takes turns on the music tables with him.

"I am the G.T.I.M. of Cafe Med—that's girl-friend of manager!" Pero, de decision that as hot-of-Bridal cake. Already the centre of after-parties, this place is also air-conditioned—perfect when the weather gets hi-hot. And be more engaging, there also serve mouth watering Mediterranean dishes, just like the people behind the establishment.

Also on the same shores, I chanced upon the taping of the QTV show "Kantos" on Saturday sometime soaking those where music chefs battle it out on an impromptu elimination. That time, the serving was the brunch. It was such a treat watching them give a million renditions on menu. And I complied to all. Sure Century Tuna should hire these super chefs to make special restaurant. That night, chef and TV host Darla Lopez proposed marriage to girlfriend Roxanne Santiago. How that's own moment!

It's a Super Saturday once again...so where will you be tonight?

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN. Ar Bunggo eighbour starts with dinner at Maki

KITCHEN PEEK. Clean inside and out is Maki's mantra.

MGA "SIKEYOUL." Rochelle Cubilla, Roanne Santiago, Mine Laperis, Issa Litton, Jonah Trinidad, Ogie Sugatan, JL Carg, Michi Sison, Darla Lopez and Lisa Ramirez share their culinary expertise in Boracay

SUMMER LOVIN'. Swiss gentleman Julian with Pinay stunner Roxanne, Palo

BORACAY BUDDIES. Divin Ogie Sugatan with his staff, the best cameraman and auditorium Benjie and Bin

GUEST STEARING IN THE SUN. Issa Litton is hot, hot, hot!

K M' B FAVORITE. Is diamond HC and B-boy Mark Reyes

XAT'OQUE IT UP. Lisa Ramirez soaks up under the sun.

At Cafe Med in Boracay

LONDON TO BORA. Jozef Espinosa and Jon Paloski

BORA Beach Club & Cafe Med's Lorna Marquez, Arnie Mercado (center) with Mimi

BAET WEST. Maester Dario & Tina Frontjaer

MTV BIBO. Francis Lumen and Julia Duncan

SHART BUDDIES. Ray Quizon and Ej Cruz

POWER OF THREE. Frolda Duero with investors Mark & Ann Santiago

JUICY FRUITS. Juice Bar's Christine San Diego with Boss Hayato Nakaseko Graf & Eric Puga

CEBU ROYALTY IN BORACAY. Miss Duremis, Cecily Moran & Joey Sarmer

DRINKING BUDDIES. Jackie Cuenllas, Mike Eulogious and Ana Hanamiya

LUCKY TWO. Ina Zamora, birthday boy Vince Dizon and Mel Perez

WINSTON LIU, sales and marketing director of Panasonic

Digging the digital alternative

IMAGINE'S AND SHUTTER CLICKS WILL turn into masterpieces as Panasonic unleashes a couple of open-thinking photography exhibit entitled, "Living Passions by Panasonic" run, merging the professional photographers in the country. Utilizing the latest technology the all-new Lumix DMC-L1 digital camera promises to revolutionize artistry and passion by living to celebration of Panasonic's 80th founding anniversary.

Pig Yaman, Mandy Navasero, Joanne Young, George Tapan and Jim Paredes take on the challenge of capturing the essence of water, earth, metal, wood and fire, respectively, to bring out the beauty of the five elements of life.

Aiming to create a next-generation digital alternative to the conventional film camera, Panasonic has focused on developing digital cameras that deliver beautiful photographs—clear, detailed, richly expressive images free of unwanted digital characteristics—promising satisfying, creative shooting.

"Living Passions by Panasonic" seeks to highlight the strengths and exciting features of DMC-L1 along with conversing the most respected Filipino professional photographers in the country for the finest best possible results and testimonies for living.

"Symbolizing intense passion and zest for living is best manifested by people who are home with the keen eye for beauty and deeper meaning," explained Alexander Ferdi, sales and marketing director of Panasonic. "With Panasonic's collection of innovations, immortalizing every meaningful moment takes an new a whole new dimension."

Panasonic also introduced its most recent collection of stylish digital cameras that will take all photographers' aficionados into a picture perfect adventure.

"We are now focusing our technology on marketing high-definition products as a high lifestyle solution to a client today," Ferdi said.

"With this kind of technology even the smallest detail of the picture is given its due importance as a piece of an expressive whole."

Go ahead, take your own plunge into the world of digital photography.

WYE TYSMAN, Mandy Navasero, George Tapan, Joanne Young, Kathy David and Rudy Fuentes

WINSTON LIU hand-showing off the Lumix DMC-L1 digital camera

Wyeth

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   and a chance to win one (1) N95 Globe phone or nine (9) Nokia 6030 phones in the weekly raffle.
2. Open the sticker to reveal entry code.
3. Text RPROMO<space>code<space>name<space>age<space>address to 2300 to redeem the free Globe load and to enter the raffle. Only 1 raffle entry to valid per entry code.
4. Promotion winners will receive a text message, registered mail and a phone call. The phone call will inform them of the designated Globe Hub branch at which they can claim their prize. To claim, winners must present the text and mail notification and 2 valid IDs.
5. Promotional prize claimed within 60 days from the date of notification. Unclaimed prizes (phone only) after the deadline will be forfeited in favor of Wyeth Philippines, Inc. (WPI), with prior approval from DOH-BFAD.
6. A participant can only win once during the raffle draw. Should a name be drawn more than once, the prize of a higher value shall be awarded and another name will be drawn as replacement.
7. All officers and employees of WPI, Globe, their advertising and promo agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
8. In case of dispute, the decision of WPI with concurrence of DOH-BFAD, shall be considered final.

Globe

Nutrition Promise runs from April 16 to May 31, 2007 only. Continue nurturing the gift to get rotated with pictures

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PLANNING FOR YOUR KID'S FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL?

Western Union shares tips on shopping for back-to-school items on budget

It's back to school once again and kids look forward to buying new stuff before classes open. But shopping for new shoes, clothes, uniforms, bags, and notebooks aren't not for a financial burden for parents?

Western Union, a worldwide leader in money transfer services, now provides you the alternative to shop for back-to-school items on a budget.

The Western Union Gold Card®, Western Union's customer loyalty program, can help you stretch your budget yet enjoy quality products because of the card's many real benefits. It takes on a higher level in terms of giving back to the customers—both money transfer senders and receivers—their much-deserved bonuses through the introduction of its new rewards - the premium paid benefits.

Sending or receiving funds through the Western Union Gold Card and transacted at any of the participating Agent locations, entitles you to showcase coupons available at Western Union's co-promotion establishments.

By simply presenting the Western Union Gold Card and submitting a valid discount coupon, customers can enjoy the following:

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- Free one serving of Sage Gelerama at GoldRocks for minimum purchase of Php 300;
- Free fresh bangus salad or 2 servings of garlic rice for every order of our whole regular chicken at Max's;
- Php 500 discount on WOW Magic Sing Microphone.

Discount coupons will be distributed until June 30, 2007 but redemption can be made up to August 31, 2007. These offers, however, cannot be redeemed with other promotional offers. Customers are reminded that each establishment has separate terms and conditions. Details can be found on flyers and posters available at all Western Union Agent locations.

Customers may also call 866-1200 within Metro Manila, (02) 888-1200 outside Manila (PLDT users apply), 1-800-1-888-1200 toll free via PLDT, or 1-800-9-866-1200 toll free via Globelines, for further details.

The world is a jungle . .

from page E1

ing a balloon up there, Stamp Britain."

The first 30 or so minutes of the stunt events—James Bond film, "Casino Royale," Slovenic footsore billionaire Fresconi and a few perilous references. Fresconi is generally considered a second generation founder of parkour, having developed it with his childhood buddy David Belle in their Paris suburb. However, he is now more associated with free running, a similar art that includes acrobatic moves like flips and spins.)

Despite the "Prison Break" angle, parkour is not at all about pissing off the man. It is, in fact, based on ukimasu, PK entry from Method Naturelle, a physical and moral education concept pioneered by the late Georges Hebert, a French physical education practitioner and one of the endless advocates of the clematis course form of physical training. But enough about dead dudes and movies. It's time for something better—the real deal.

LIKE SPIDEY ONLY REAL. The core PKPH crew at the "Spider-Man 3" opening at the SM MEGA

MAD SKILLZ. Parkour entails soft landings and smooth transitions from one obstacle to another.

PK in the PH

It's Saturday morning, 8 a.m. Most people try not are probably parked at about after parties or barely crawling into bed. (You know, with it's 11.) Meanwhile, I am staring the Intrex Blue Eagle Gym, on time—that is, ten early—for my first ever parkour member jam. Since all gloomy magazine days in the life profiles of risk models seem to start with exercise, my enthusiasm is, like, okay.

Upon first Vilar, possibly one of the few Pinoy parkour, I immediately see my mistake. "The early bonding member's and I decided to get into parkour about 3 years ago after seeing the documentary Jump London' on the Discovery Channel," says the 22-year-old. "This is about free running, and it helped me somewhat escape from here too. Free soap, we were all looking for that, so we were all pro-physical sports and different martial arts."

Adding up to about 30-to 40 warmers, parkour in the Philippines is slowly increasing, which is the way his thinks it should be anyway. The fledgling group has already noticed colonies further in the Antone Golden, Manual Magazine, and 9504, and facetime on QTV's "Sapulso" and "Rakbuo" and GMA's "Bel and Joey." The core parkour crew has also established a presence like the Nokia 6500 launch and the "Spider-Man 3" opening in the SM IMAX. Less this month, they'll be featuring the stage at Nickelodeon's Kid's Choice Awards. Not bad, right?

Adult jungle gym

The youngest trainee, by tells me, is a 14-year old girl. (What probably same me when it comes to lungs and vaults—or not—but I'm getting way ahead of the story here.) Since the focus isn't on big jumps and drops, he says it's okay to begin learning at any physical condition. "It's about individual rides and slowly reaching your goal as opposed to just forcing it through," he chuckles.

Its goes on to stress that parkour is "efficiency of movement in the urban environment," or anything with rails, walls, and ledges. Most practice open-air logically around parks and playgrounds. Circling back to the Blue Eagle Gym, I start seeing its awesome parkour potential.

From corner to door, my initiation kicks off with simple warm-up moves. (By the way, the gym is straightforward: a good pair of running shoes and loose, comfy clothing. Note: nothing skinny and nice.) I am first made to stretch and jog around the grade school parking lot. My wobbly Canadian body is still not used to the May humidity and I learn firsthand what it feels like to be a self-basting chicken with an iPod. Whatever.

Wheels, zip, bars—not really

Then I train how to jump and roll. At first it's lame. (Like, of course I can jump and roll. Duh.) But the more I think about it, the more it makes sense. Reasonably, I'd rather take a week to learn to do the basics properly than break my leg trying a complex trajectory. Parkour wasn't built in a day and neither will my skillset. Pressing the red and blue caps would have to wait.

Though my gurus did not disembargo me to the leap department, the lessons of maneuverism is still a) more than it looks. Parkour entails soft landings and smooth transitions between moves and obstacles, as opposed to stomping clones and losing momentum like a hippo attempting ballet. Which is kinda like how I looked, I guess. Maybe it's default prior for the many cut on my leg, but I feel light-headed with humility.

My background in swimming, sonny, splash, tennis, weight training, and yoga (as well as my drunken stab at some bowling and scuba diving) is a small ray of consolation, but I still have a long way to go before I can call myself a real-for-it trainee. So yeah, I expect to roll around a lot on the living room carpet and perfect my jump and landing in the safety of my bedroom.

Look before you leap

"A lot of kids can get injured without proper training," he continues, underscoring the importance of physical conditioning. Keeping yourself in top-top shape is a social since parkour uses most of your body to navigate hurdles. Not only do you need stamina, you need strength, speed, and power as well. "You can practice techniques over or twice a week, but what is more important is the development of the body."

To avoid falling into the all-important broken bones category, a newbie learner has to start slow, stay off rooftops, and keep everything within control. According to the co-founder of PKPH Parkour Philippines, parkour is not a quick trip. "There is no competition. You don't have to be better than the other guy. You're only against yourself, your fears, your obstacles and barriers."

It's not like "Jackass"

Your mom, dad, girlfriend, boyfriend, doctor or lawyer might think parkour is a bunch of "Jackass" lunacy, but there's no comparison unlike that old MTV show. "There are so many hosts in parkour that cannot be instantly understood. There must be learned, researched, and experienced," he concludes. "I think it's sad that the media continues to portray the art as another 'extreme sport' or 'kids just jumping off things.'"

Now that Nike, Reebok and adidas have used parkour in their ad campaigns, it's as possible that the practice is in danger of jumping the shark. In a previous issue of MTV Sticky, the youth network's trend lord, Michael Gillespie is research director at Isaiah Weinberg Millward Brown) challenged the practice of completely ripping off brands slapping their logos on some-thing in a DOG's mind it "cool."

The Next Big Thing?

"Now sorry if that seems harsh, but one could argue that when you have companies trying to get involved with a minority of young people who throw themselves off buildings as a means of selling more of a totally unrelated product, that you'd have it's time to take a step back and look at where we are," Gillespie writes. "Youth marketing should not be about promoting parkour, corporate flash mumbo's parkour, or urban hitching (and no I haven't made that up) just because everyone is desperate to find the 'next big thing.'"

Gliding over walls and up to benches may have a built in cool quotient, but it's important to look at parkour's whole picture and get back to its roots. After all, David Belle did not develop the sensation by creating disciplines to boost photos or sneakers. He did it so that the practicing community of trainees can live their lives in harmony. This is not only with the environment but non-cash flows, but with the people they meet and the situations they run into. Parkour is about organization, emotionally looking to improve yourself and helping others along the way. Yeah.

(Wanna get involved? Visit parkour.philippines@yahoogroups.com, pkph.multiply.com, and parkour.net. Be inquiries, e-mail parkourphilippines@yahoo.com.)

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The fruit tea

SATURDAY Special

Julie Hector U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rina P. Jimlo

Who's in it to win it?

By Hector U. Torre

LEWIS. More experienced and versatile.

AS OF THIS WRITING (MAY 16), "American Idol" is down to its last three finalists—Melinda Doolittle, Blake Lewis and Jordin Sparks. The popular "it's-big-to-you" of its season is still fairly wide open, but avid followers of the singing competition are second-guessing the voters and are figuring out who the "Ultimate Idol" will turn out to be. How if you agree with the "logic" of the eliminated contestant.

On point of sheer singing talent, the favorite is Melinda, a former back-up singer and the oldest and most experienced performer in the trio. Melinda evokes musical memories of classy chanteuses of old, like Dinah Washington and Lena Horne.

MELINDA. Precocious self-confidence.

Too mature

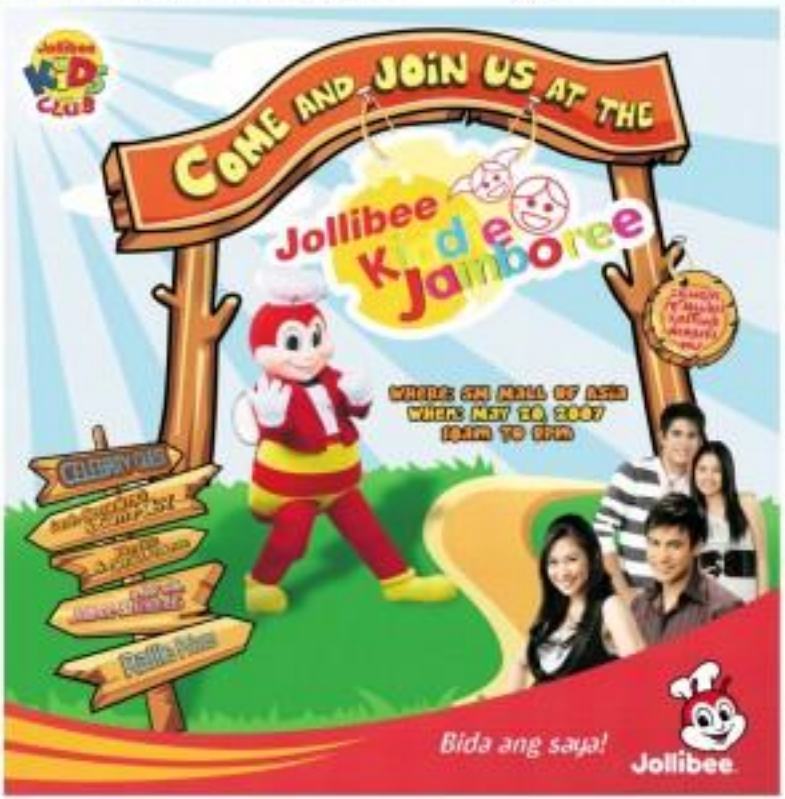
Could it be, however, that Melinda is too mature to win the top prize? Going by the salt-and-pepper-topped Taylor Hicks' victory last year, not really.

Still, Taylor was "cool" but edgy and irascible, while Melinda comes across more like—a bluestocking! If none of the show's remaining stars are to be teens and young adults, this would prove to be a problem for Melinda.

To be sure, she's thrown in the course of the 6th that she can sing it up some—but, to some extent, her natural sweetness and dryness remain. So the needs not to alienate of looser musical ability. They've got to go about in "defending" Melinda with their goodness of voice, otherwise the younger "final-ration" will rule the day.

Comparing the two younger finalists, Blake

WHO'S IN IT TO



Who's in it to win it?

From page F1

comes across as more experienced and versatile, and his signature "vocal ridiculousness" enable him to score extra points with some viewers (others think they can get a bit much, though).

Blake could also benefit from the show's predominantly female viewership, as did Sanjaya Malakar some weeks ago. Since he's the last male theater standing—and cute, besides—so, all those giddy adolescents who flipped for Sanjaya could decide to support his bid for top "Idol-hood."

Debit side

On the debit side, however, Blake's singing occasionally went off in his Simon Cowell's Devil-death sounds[1] "ear-karaoke." —And, on a singing tilt, that's not OK!

On her part, Jordin is the youngest finalist in the tilt at only 17, so it's a marvel that she's survived this far. The reasons for this include her hugely compelling vocal instrument, her height and heft (which make her look older than her tender years), her versatility, and her precocious self-confidence.

All of these plus points, plus the youth factor in the voting, suggest that, when the final votes are added up, it's Jordin who will come up as "It's" Ultimate Idol.

Relevance

Of course, some things could still go wrong during the tilt's last performance episodes. Barring major catastrophes, however, Jordin could lock out in for "It." Her victory wouldn't go a long way to further "vocal heritage" for the singing woman's urban and whatnot, despite its having rationalized its age limit for contestants upwards.

In the past, other items also made it to the finals, but Jordin's advantage over them is her extremely more mature proportion, which makes it easier for both judges and voters to see her as a winner who'll be in for the long haul.

Postscript: It's Thursday, May 17, and the two remaining Idols have just been announced. (Reckless: Melinda's out! It looks like our "youth" arguments has ruled the roost. Sorry, the survival of "young ones," Blake and Jordin.

Who will win in the "final-finals"? Odds-makers bet on Jordin over Blake...but the show's millions of viewer-voters always have the final say and they could have yet another shocker in store for everyone—Indian "Id" 2007 finally reaches its date-hang revelation!

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G4	1 SPIDER-MAN 3		2 FRACTURE		3		SHREK 3
	4 LUCKY YOU	5 SHREK 3		6 SHREK 3		7 WHISPER	
GB1	1 SPIDER-MAN 3				2	SHREK 3	
GB3	1	SHREK 3		2	SPIDER-MAN 3		
	3 FRACTURE	4 SHREK 3		5 SHREK 3			
ATC	1	SHREK 3		2 SPIDER-MAN 3			
	3 FRACTURE	4 WHISPER		5 SHREK 3			
ACC	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 WHISPER	3 TURISTAS	4 GRAY MATTERS			
M2	1 SHREK 3		2 FRACTURE				
	3 WHISPER	4 SHREK 3	5 SPIDER-MAN 3				

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SHREK 3
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Strawberry Shortcake and Friends
The Big Berry Bake Off
at the Ayala Malls

Shoddy shock tactics in middling thriller

By Mashalt Torre

A GROUP OF DESPERATE EX-CONVICTS kidnaps a rich lady's little boy, holds him for ransom and, as horrible things start to happen, begin to realize that the child they've abducted isn't as innocent as he appears to be.

It's not hard to imagine why a filmmaker would want to make a movie out of a premise like this—it's like "The Omen" and "Ransom" combined, two blockbusters for the price of one.

Size and size don't always make two, however. Sometimes, they don't even make one. This is the case with the supernatural thriller, "Whisper," which doesn't quite manage to follow through on its promising premise.

Black dog

The movie opens promisingly enough: It's winter in the woods, and a young woman is being chased by a big black dog (which, if you know your horror history, is obviously a hellhound). The chase is sufficiently fast to get your blood pumping, but your heart calms down after that.

It will, in fact, remain calm for long stretches of time. It only picks up its pace when subjected to a cheap thrill—after which, it calms down again.

Horror movies can get away with a cheap thrill here and there, but if most of the scares come from shoddy shock tactics, then that's just cheating—or being lazy. Viewers expect more from horror flicks these days, especially now that we've been exposed to the frenzy attacks of Asian and J-horror filmmakers. We want to be terrified without, not just surprised by a jack-in-the-box scare.

The movie is "Lost" star, Josh Holloway's feature film debut, as it is director Stewart Hendler's. This is perhaps the reason why the film feels underdeveloped, as though it were merely the first draft. Holloway doesn't hold your attention for long. As for the devil-child, Jared (Blake Woodruff), he is more annoying than frightening.

As a whole, "Whisper" is more a jolt-through than a jump-to-your-seat horror movie. The scares are middling, and the suspense isn't as taut as it could have been.

Reinventing . . .

From page F4

when Raymond Red's short film, "Anino" (2000) bagged the Golden Palm, the Philippines' first ever. Other than Red's breakthrough win, only a handful of Pinoy directors and films have grounded the French festivities, including Lino Brocka ("Insiang," "Jaguar," "Bona"), Mike de Leon ("Kisapmata," "Batch 81") and Marilou Diaz-Abaya ("Babae sa Breakwater").

Mel's "Foster Child," Zoe's film easily reinvents itself and makes a triumphant shift in its film programming. Subtitled, after's hosting for Cannes on the 21st, says it was only a matter of time before a project like "Foster" would land on his lap. He explains, "I don't see it as a contradiction. I produced those sexy flicks because there was a demand for them. But, I love the indie spirit—and the timing is right, because people are warming up to the idea of indie filmmaking.

"Last year, only about 16 local movies were produced—some 36 of them mainstream, while the rest were digital indies. Cinemalaya has truly given the industry a much needed shot in the arm, and we're starting a lot of accolades to the international market.

Fresh concepts

"I want mainstream cinema to realize that the indie wave offers the option of stirring fresh concepts and themes while still using the same filmmaking style—that way, you don't compromise a movie's technical quality. For always wanted to do a film that could be shown around the world. 'Foster,' a 35 mm feature with an overtly indie concept, allows me to do just that, because it's theme about foster parenting has global appeal. It will also be the opening film of the Third Cinemalaya Film Festival in July.

If you think Zoe is placing all his bets on 'Foster Child,' think again. Next month, Joel Lamangan's "Silip," Erika's latest commercial offering since love letter Bayer "I Wanna Be Happy" (shown to instant fan fare) will be shown in commercial theaters. The sexy psychological thriller is uplifted by his prized contract stars, Diana Zubiri and Francine Prieto.

How does he see himself 10 years from now? How does he want to be remembered? He takes a moment to answer, then he smiles. "I'll be retired by then. I'll just be watching movies, and reminiscing about the best moments of my life. When the time comes, I hope people will remember me for the good films I made."

SUN CELLULAR SPONSORS AXN CHALLENGE

Sun Cellular's media manager, Abe Abarquez (left), and AVP for prepaid, Jose Dionisio (right), award winners of the three-out-stage-of-the AXN Mad Challenge sponsored by Sun Cellular. The AXN Amazing Mad Challenge held last April 21 at SM Megamall featured 32 teams who tried for the top prize of P50,000, plus gift items from sponsors.

We'll tell you a story on why the first instant misua from Nissin doesn't taste like instant because we need more than a paragraph to explain to you that we didn't create it instantly.

It all started in 1910, when Momofuku Ando, the inventor of instant ramen and the founder of Nissin was born. Orphaned at a child and sternly raised by his grandfather, Mr. Ando treasured instant as a give-and-take affair; that is, if you take too much and give too little in return, you end up killing the other person and losing everything.

Nissin was founded on this win-win principle.

Hunger brought out the inspiration.

In the spring of 1948, post-war Osaka had been reduced to ashes. There was little to eat, food lines stretched around dark street corners. It was here that Mr. Ando saw people crazed with hunger, on their feet for hours, all for a bowl of steaming ramen. In two years' time, he created and distributed the first instant ramen from his backyard.

What started out as neighborhood fare ended up as one of the world's favorite meals for hungry people who can't wait.

From then on, Mr. Ando never stopped, inventing Nissin Cup Noodles in 1971 and other technological innovations in the instant food industry—the latest being the first Space Ramen in 2005.

Now the same Japanese spirit of innovation is being used to make the first instant misua from Nissin—a proudly Pinoy noodle—in Cup Noodle format.

Nissin has achieved a fusion of Pinoy taste and Japanese technology.

Distinctly Pinoy. Misua misses.

We searched the rural countryside, going as far as Batangas for the perfect misua. We tried everything from roadside eateries to gourmet restaurants—anything to capture this classic Pinoy rice noodle. We were looking for the right texture, thickness, color and the clean translucency of true misua.

Chicken Misua for the soul.

Our mother knew all along. There's nothing like chicken misua to calm a restless heart or to soothe an ailing soul. It has to be prepared with great love and care to be able to do this. That's why we didn't tamper much with the seasoning packet and chicken mix.

Enhanced by patola flavor.

The traditional misua our mothers made always had patola—it would be incomplete without it. So even when our misua noodles were ready, we sacrificed launch timings and delays, just to protect the patola recipe.

Fat-free.

We made our instant misua to be just like your favorite comfort food—refreshing, light and delicious to melt away stress or any day-to-day pain.

In the familiar Japanese Cup Noodle technology.

Of course, just like any other Nissin instant noodle, our misua had to be ready in just three minutes in boiling water. All in our world-famous easy-to-hold cup format.

And that is the story of the first instant chicken misua from Nissin, and how it doesn't taste like ordinary instant noodles, and how we made it for you to experience and to enjoy.

NISSIN

Reinventing Robbie Tan

PHOTO AND ILLUSTRATION: Salve's printed personalities will co-exist in "Silip."

By Nino P. Asis

MORE THAN ANYTHING, MOKO FILMS' Robbie Tan is known for the sexy films he produces. In the '70s, he released his first movie, "Bulaklak," starring local Tinseltown's then sex goddess, Nina Moreno.

Tan's film outfit has since racked up more than 200 bonbon pictures—including the company's biggest box-office hit, 1987's "Black Magic," starring comedy king, Dolphy.

In the '80s, and unknown to many, he discovered a petite teenage hooker with a mind of her own. She pretty fast would later make waves in Star Cinema's romantic dramas and (as MD-CEO) controversial, Claudine Barretto.

who first appeared in Robbie's youth-oriented sexcom romps like 1995's "Dalu Pando" and 1996's teenage romance, "Matrikula Ng Hiningi Mindud."

As a producer, however, his bread and butter projects were of the sexy and naughty variety. So conceptualized and "created" classy hold stars out of the enigmatic Tan. Is Ariella B ("Pati"), Priscilla Almeda ("Isabel"), Dina Zabat ("Kampeng"), Francine Prieto ("Liberated") and the impressible Susan Roces ("Elvis 2"). He turned the elegant fillet of Eva Eva Ariella, Gretchen Barretto, Rita Avila, Rina Reyes and Cristina Gonzales to sexom symphoni who captured the collective imagination of the Filipino male.

Image

But, there's much more to Robbie's bold film-impresario image than meets the eye. Tan has been a staunch advocate of the country's indie filmmaking movement, as the burgeoning number of independent filmmakers he's helped nurture in the Cinemalaya and Cinema One film festivals have only too well. With his straightforward ways and imposing presence, Robbie can make you feel uncomfortable. But, while he says things as he sees them, he says he only has the best interests at heart.

So, when director Jeffrey "Jeffy" Hinojo ("Kubrador" "Manahimik") outed us that his latest film, "Foster Child," a drama-starring Cherry Pie Picache and produced by Tan, has been stuck, to grace the Cinemalaya Festival of the 60th Cannes film festival, we were delighted.

The last time the country made a dent at the world's most prestigious one film fest was

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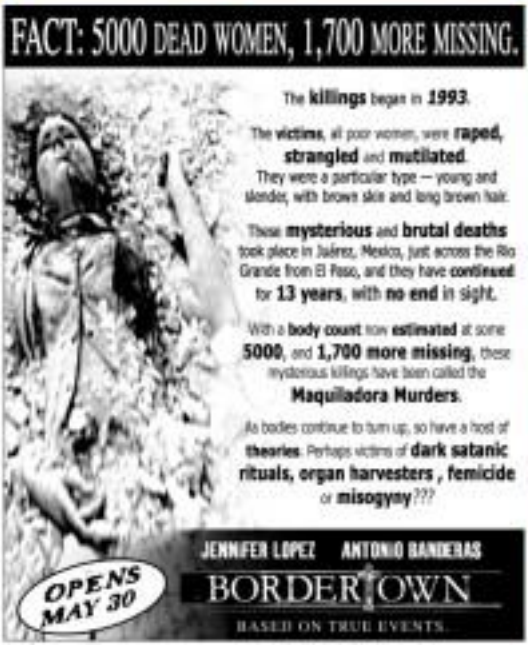

DAUGHTER

SATURDAY Special

Ruffa and Annabelle cry their hearts out on competing shows

MOTHER

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST SUNDAY, PHILIPPINE TELEVISION came up with a unique "confessional" that's sure to be the group outburst Sunday. On ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," Ruffa Gutierrez was crying her heart out as she revealed her marital woes...while on GMA 7's "Show Biz Central," her brother, Annabelle Rama, also broke down as she revealed how she had urged her daughter to leave her husband after four years.

Daughter and mother pretty much talking about the same topic, but from different perspectives and on competing TV channels—what really is TV entertainment or only Pinoys can relate to?

It was logical for Ruffa to schedule herself on "The Buzz," because she's an expert on female bear (for kits sake). But, what was Annabelle doing on "Show Biz Central"? Well,

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4 WHISPER
5 SHREK 3

LIPA

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DASMARINAS

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SHOWTIME

Event Calendar

Buffa and Annabelle ...

Pumapag-G4

at the coincidence would have it, her son Raymond is one of the new doctor's hosts on GMA 7 had in much-needed "counsel" to MD-CBTD. guaranteed refuge-copper.

Of course, despite Annabelle's well-known passion of purposeful listlessness and singing crooners, Buffa will admit the day since she was the assured participant in the temperamental drama. But we must note that, when it came to breaking down, Annabelle's exposure must eclipsed her daughter's own humble cries.

She concluded her crying jag with an ecstatic plea to Buffa not to go back to her husband, if she didn't want to kill her own mother. Well, Buffa wouldn't together!

But, the unhappy and unmarried wife wasted her own points by revealing that, despite her marriage's faire she loves him, it was in fact an occasionally traumatic union. This was a big shock to some viewers, who thought that Buffa was living a privileged life with her doubtingly handsome Marco and their "princess" daughter.

Psyche

Not true, Buffa replied, as she railed against Turkish men who beat their wives. She stopped short of actually declaring that she herself was a battered wife, but there was no mistaking the pain inflicted on her psyche.

Annabelle had her own bitter feelings to share, especially when Tiffany's recently published letter complaining about a particular relative of Buffa's who had contributed much to their marital woes. Seemingly stalling dabbed in, Annabelle averred that she was only doing what any mother would do...protecting her daughter from unhappiness and pain.

Perfect, it was indeed to see that, even as the Gutierrez women spoke up strongly and tearfully for the male members of their family were in the very midst of temperamental speech and behavior, with not one of them threatening to go on the warpath in defense of the wronged Buffa. Make of that what you will.

Domestic drama

Like the response on, cross-continental domestic drama played itself out? Not likely. There was talk last week that Tiffany would fly in to try to woo her and Buffa's disarmed marriage. And indeed it appeared that the estranged couple still talked each other up 10 times a day! So, hope springs.

On the other hand, if the controversial hubby can't change his ways and solve Buffa's problem with his "behavior," hope decidedly dims.

BEATAS. Other side of the story.

Haven for learning

STREET SMART
Mandy Navarrete

MANILA (19 TSR) — Secret of a beautiful village south of Metro Manila, the 22-year-old Luz Pilar Montessori School (LPMS), at 23 Guanzon st. cor. Dama de Noche Circle, Westgrandville subd., Luz Pilar City, is a well-designed school with spacious classrooms.

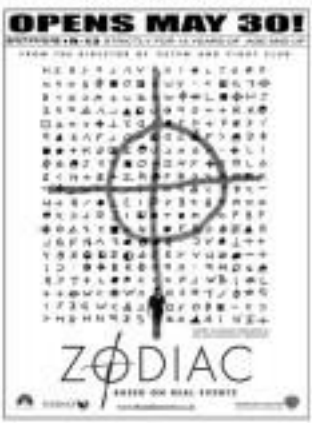
Pupils as young as two years old are able to read and write. A student's innate love for learning is enhanced by activities in five areas of education: Practical Life, Sensorial, Math, Language, and Cultural Arts.

LPMS's special approach to education is through the Montessori Method, which was developed by its founder, Dr. Maria Montessori. The principle focuses on the interrelationship between a child and the institution's structured environment.

LPMS president, Mrs. Rowena Estoya-Carreon, states: "Children progress at their own pace and rhythm, and according to their individual capabilities—without losing the fun and effectiveness. Our teachers have become several parents to our pupils, who feel safe and loved."

Visit the school from May 28 to 31 during its open house. Call 871-1725 or 872-5808, or email lpms@yahoo.com.

LORENZO (RIGHT). Progress at students' own pace and rhythm.



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women's desk

To report cases of abuse or to find out more about the Draw The Line campaign, call the Women's Desk Hotline 926-6598.

women's desk 10pm thursdays

Serbisyong Totoo

THE MANOMANO SUB TOOK STOCK OF Sahub (Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Development Inc.) is celebrating its first anniversary this month with a big sale of its beautiful and unique Philippine handicrafts (until June 10).

MONTAGE

ManoMano has become a favored stop for shoppers and lovers of Philippine handicrafts because of the originality and high quality of its products. Being a Fair Trade store, it also sets the pace for fair treatment of its workers and suppliers, and buyers are happy to support such enlightened practices with their patronage of ManoMano's wide range of products.

On May 26, Sahub will celebrate World Fair Trade Day. There will be on-the-spot art and craft contests and other educational activities for children in line with this year's theme, "Kids Need Fair Trade." Call 926-4169.

Support ManoMano's fine handicrafts and fair trade initiatives by availing of its big first anniversary sale at 2594 Lanuza st., Sta. Ana, Manila.

BACKMAN. New album.

'Escape'

Jay Stolzman's latest album, "Escape," is his first compilation of original solo music in three years. Guest artists include David Lovett, Sara Evans, Marc Anteiler, Jake Simpson, Geoff Byrd and David Hinkenberg.

Movies on TV

On Cinemax, today at 4:35 p.m., "Apollo 13." Tomorrow at 9:40 a.m., "Dog Day Afternoon." May 21 at 2:30 p.m., "To Die On Ice." May 22 at 6:40 p.m., "The Ten Jules." May 23 at 6:40 a.m., "All Quiet on the Western Front." May 24 at 1:10 p.m., "Five Graves To Cairo." May 25 at 7:45 a.m., "Roman Holiday."

On HBO, today at 9:30 a.m., "Empire of the Sun." Tomorrow at 12 p.m., "Forrest Fun I." May 21 at 7 p.m., "Back to the Future I." May 22 at 8:15 a.m., "Young Sherlock Holmes." May 23 at noon, "In the Name of the Father." May 24 at 3 p.m., "The Education of Little Tree." May 25 at noon, "Defending Your Life." 12:30 a.m., "Rome 11: Those Being the Words of Marcus Tullius Cicero."

Grand summer finale

Whatever's Summer Music Blast holds its finale today at Portofino, Cebu, with Parokya ni Edgar performing. Other shows: June 9 at Anvil, Mall of Asia, with Sandwich; June 15 at Cowells's, Eastwood Libis, with Imago; June 23 at Leyte Park, Tacloban City, with Sandwich. And June 29 at Magic Bus, Shrimpwalk Ortigas, with Freestyle.

Moms 'n Kids Fair

A big Moms 'n Kids Fair is ongoing at SM Megamall until May 20, with an crowded assortment of activities, swimming for beginners, cooking demos, arts and crafts workshops, a My Shoes and Me bookselling contest, fashion shows—etc.! Call 687-0854, or email sue@pldslot.com.

TV seminar

On Saturday May 26, the Antares Television Studio and UNCAP in San Fernando, Pampanga will hold a seminar on the creative use of plywood for effective spendable.

The studio produces the acclaimed TV show, "Mist of Light," and is now preparing to come up with other similarly illuminating programs, hence its ongoing media seminars and workshops.

On May 26, Sister Eres will speak on creative and effective storytelling in communicate inspiring messages, while Ears David will talk about making TV documentaries.

Creative supervisor of Antares's projects is award TV film director Shalimar Diaz Abaya.

HAWK Sale Store celebrates its first anniversary this month.

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

QUIZ. Prince in Fur Fur Away: (Seated, from left) Princesses Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Rapunzel; with reformed ogre/ogress Donk (standing).

Ogres and villains figure in comic battle of wits

By Rito P. Asilo

"Shrek the Third"

Dir. Chris Miller

S: Voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Eddie Murphy, Antonio Banderas, Julie Andrews

SHREK, PRINCESS FIONA AND THEIR ogre friends are back! And the irreverent deconstruction of fairy tales continues in Chris Miller's third installment of the misadventures of the large, green ogre and his wife-to-be (and of her Fur Away).

Shrek (marvelously voiced by Mike Myers), now the No. 1 heir to the throne, gets the jitters when he learns about Princess Fiona's (Cameron Diaz) pregnancy. When the frog king (John Cleese) dies, the ogre envoy, Pinocchio (Antonio Banderas—that he's too cute for the crown—and that he's happier in the smelly surroundings of swampy Worcestershire) bravely accepts fatherhood, simply don't become him!

With Donkey (Eddie Murphy) and Puss-in-Boots (Antonio Banderas) trying for safe sail to Worcestershire to recruit Prince Arthur (Justin Timberlake), who's second in line to the throne, Shrek, who hasn't seen and mind-boxed...he's in for one to be a donkey broken down outcast, who is constantly bullied by the dashing Lancelot and his underlings...and only the semi-retired Merlin (Eric Idle), who's recuperating from a recent nervous breakdown, can help Arte get his act together!

Elsewhere, in a dark tower full of villains, the bitter Prince Charming (Rupert Everett), who's always wanted to be King Charming, makes a fevered speech that convinces fairy tale land's baddies, like Captain Hook (Ian McShane), Cyclops, and the Wicked Witch to overturn their bad luck. Strangely, he reasons, "Who says we don't deserve our own happily ever after?"

So, they prepare to invade the bucolic kingdom of Far Far Away! But, not if the Queen (Julie Andrews), Princess Fiona, Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, and reformed ugly stepsister Bride (still voted he—gasp!—Larry King) have a say about the matter! Let those baddies and fairy-tale-ness in fairy tale trouble!

With an adroit hand, Miller keeps the animated feature incredibly amusing and entertaining. And even with perishability always encroaching, the wacky comic remains reliable—albeit tamer and more Disney-friendly, now—and "sweet-ness" don't always go together.

The franchise is likewise showing signs of middle-age sellers, with the film's bolstered middle-third dipping considerably in terms of action and panting. Fat-heavy. After all, just how many more fairy tale fables can Dan and Co. mine?

The first, overcome that letting-down a relaxed to thinking when chase in the the hoop-crops—and "Fur-ter! Donkey has to endure an uninspired body-swap sequence!

Despite these quibbles, "Shrek the Third" remains highly enviable. With comic irreverence and slapstick relish, and with tongues firmly in cheek, Shrek and his pals subtly entertain viewers that, indeed, everybody deserves a happy ending—even bad guys and ogres!

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Groban shows pop sensibility in 'Awake'

By Nestor Torre

JOSH GROBAN GIVES US MORE OF the same in his most recent album, and, somewhere, something more than what fans will be glad to hear (the "Awake" features more of the grandly styled pop opera he introduced to the public in his first two albums. As for those looking for innovation, there's something for them here, too.

Groban has tweaked his hotselling formula in his third studio release, though the differences may seem negligible to non-followers. He flees familiar with the singer's material, however, these small adjustments might be indicative of more significant changes in the future.

GROBAN: Co-writes four tracks.

Presence

One adjustment is the more audible presence of English-language songs. Unlike his previous albums, "Awake" contains more songs with English lyrics than those written in the romantic tongues (i.e., Italian, Spanish, French). This makes one wonder why there was a predominance of those songs to begin with, especially since (one typical lyricism isn't really familiar with those languages.

Then again, perhaps listeners don't care much about such meanings—you have to admit the romantic languages sound more, well, romantic. They lend a deep touch to everything. "Il Mistero Nostro" has more emotional appeal than "The Last Night." The higher proportion of English songs, however, may indicate that Groban is grooming towards a more pop sensibility.

Another thing that this inconsistency-creator is doing more often this time around is writing. He co-wrote four of the album's 13 songs, and he has some pretty well-known co-writers—among them Jon Joe Hidalgo's John Ondrasik ("Hallelujah Song"), Imogen Heap ("Hide or Seek"), and Dave Matthews ("Gabby").

Inclination

"Awake" also features other artists whose presence gives added spice to a largely unsurprising record. But, surprising doesn't mean unpleasant. Indeed, unpleasant is the last thing you'd think upon listening to anything sung by Groban. He has a smooth as silk, technically proficient voice that ain't hard to listen to. Coupled with swelling strings and an inclination for soaring melodies, they all add up to an enjoyable listening experience.

For those who might find him too bland and don't discern all the operatic flourishes, listen to "Madonna"; a surprisingly funky number that hints at hidden, less conventional depths.

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPH

BY JOSS ASHER

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY ROLI JUNIOR

KUNG MAY KAILANGAN KAYO, TAWAGAN NYO LANG AKO...
AT KUNG MAY KAILANGAN KAYO, TAWAGAN NYO LANG AKO...
NAKU, MAGSISIMULA NA NAMAN SIYA!
TAWAG NYO LANG AKO...
TAWAG NYO LANG AKO...
TAWAG NYO LANG AKO...

Sockie Fernandez makes directorial debut in Cinemalaya entry

By Rina Jimenez-David

I DROPPED BY THE KUBO Pictures set of the Cinemalaya entry, "Todong," under the helm of TV commercial director, Sockie Fernandez. Cinemalaya regular Lou Molly was sick, but was still upbeat about the shoot despite the torrential summer heat. I was surprised to see a smile-clad Gary Valenciano overhanging lines with some kid actors.

I interviewed Kuba another day. She's very grateful for the support of co-producer Jonah Jimenez. Her subjects, "When I told him I was making a Cinemalaya film, he said he accepted and finished it in one sitting. He told me, 'I have a good feeling about this script—it's a film that should be done!'"

FERNANDEZ (CENTER, WITH MOLLY VERGEIRA AND TOLEDO): "Everything just fell into place."

Virtues

While Sockie was extolling Jimenez's virtues, Butch walked by our table. The two were surprised to see each other. Incidentally, they were thinking about the same person to do the film's musical score: Tolits Alvarez-Guinigundo.

Sockie shares, "Everything just fell into place—'Todong' falling on my lap, finding a producer in Jonah Jimenez who loves the script and finished it in one sitting. He told me, 'I have a good feeling about this script—it's a film that should be done!'"

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Mark Meily dreams of working with Nora & Vilma

By Ronald G. Mangubat

DIRECTOR MARK MEILY BELIEVES that a Filipino director can claim that he has already accomplished something only if he has directed local celebrities two friends mentor icons—Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos.

"I have two women films to mind starring these two living legends," the 40-year-old director muses. "So, hari, there's a big screenplay that writer Chris Martinez and I thought up called 'The Nora Aunor School of Acting,' which is written in the mold of 'Being John Malkovich.' Of course, it requires Aunor to do a cameo."

Bright ideas

That movie will have to wait because the country's superstar is still abroad. Meanwhile, director Meily's head is spinning with other bright ideas for future projects in the pipeline is a remake of Indiana's '80s dramedy 'Way Down Yonder' with Michael V in the title role, another movie revolves around Magellan's travels, "Ang unang ng story ni Magellan—barangay, maging, affairs his doing towards on the subject."

Then Mark's incendiary passion to another classic takes us to his dream film projects. After all, among the eccentric soup of young movie directors, he's the only one whose two full length films, 'Crying Ladies' and 'La Vista Loca,' got the coveted A grade from the Cinema Evaluation Board.

When he's not writing or making movies, Meily is busy directing TV commercials. "My bread and butter," he admits. Married to ace cinematographer Lee Meily, with whom he has three kids, the Bicol-educated filmmaker says his partnership with Lee has remained stimulating and dynamic after all these years. Swoon.

Have you always wanted to direct films? Have you always been a director?

When I was in high school, I assisted to be an animator, but all my friends wanted to become directors. I took up Fine Arts in college and dabbled a bit in short 8MM in UP.

The summer, I decided to take classes at Mowelfund, where I was introduced to indie films. I knew it was for me.

You went to France after Mowelfund?

In 1998, I made several short films, and I was invited to show them in Belgium. That European experience blew my mind, so I knocked on European embassies' doors hoping to get a scholarship. The British embassy said they had no opening for a film scholarship, but the Irish was. I had to be fluent in French. I told them I was...habit hindi nmin (laughs). When I got accepted, I was hired to learn French fast!

What did you learn in Paris?

It's not much different from what I learned at Mowelfund. A full-timer in France is the same as a full-timer here and in Hollywood. But, the exposure of being in Paris really made the difference. I watched classic European films for free.

When they described Nora Aunor's lighting, it was easy to get to memorize and set an original benchmark painting by comparison. What struck me was the use of symmetry or symbols. You don't shoot anything that has no significant role in the story. I cherished the debates because the French hated discussions—you have to take a stand!

We heard that prior to shooting "Crying Ladies," everything was drawn on storyboards...

Yes. There are directors who feel no nail-limit calls up storyboards for me, it's like being an architect. You draw a plan, and your staff sees what the plan is.

How did you feel when your first two movies got the A grade from the CEB?

There were people who said, 'Hindi naman mga publicist 'yan,' so, when that happened, I felt like an outsider getting accepted into the industry. Certainly there were people who said, 'Don't tell people you got the A grade, how it's a curse!' (laughs)

How was it like working with Sharon?

I was star struck at first, but Sharon's shy. I went with Sharon, "Where I was in high school, ang tambayan place ko at ghe club ay ang bic soup me na 'High School Life' (laughs) Some people are like ang pogi-sweet nya, but I'm proven that it's cool!

How did you manage to coax a good performance from Robin Padilla in "La Vista Loca"?

Honestly, people warned me. 'Ingat ka kay Robin. Adik man tendency na mag-DA yan!' I was aware of that, so there were some gestures to misbehavior. Ito. When Robin is directed well, he can be very good.

Among local actors and actresses, with whom do you want to work?

I have a feeling that we don't have enough great actors. My friend and I were discussing which actor would be perfect to play Missy Aquino if his life were to be filmed—and we couldn't think of anyone! Then, it hit us...si Jay Ilagan! Unfortunately, he's no longer with us.

Who are your influences?

I learned a lot from Ding Lee in engineering. In directing, it's Mike de Leon. I've worked with him too, unfortunately, I became one of the casualties of his famous temper (laughs)! I wasn't fired—I was just relegated to do other work.

Who's better: Brocka or Bernal?

I'd go for Bernal. I think his films have more power...and they're able to transcend time. I talked to both of them when they were still alive and I connected more with Bernal.

Name five movies, local or foreign, that you really like.

Mike de Leon's "Batch '81," "Itim," Bernal's "Hubad sa Kahapon," Brocka's "Insiang," "Jaguar," Diane Keaton's "Chill," and Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain."

Do you have an artist's temper?

No. I'm a very cool director. Some people say I should be more forceful, but that's not who I am!

Season of hits sequels

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER "SPIDER-MAN 3" SCORCHED MOVIE screens and broke longstanding box-office records worldwide, "Shrek 3" sets to prove that sequels are the safest money in the business these days.

Will "Shrek 3" top Spidey's latest screen triumph? Not likely. It's smaller and less spectacular in scope, and should do very good—but not record-breaking—numbers.

Which is not to say that it isn't going to gross in the mega-millions. What started as a short story for children written by William Steig has become one of the most beloved film franchises in the biz.

Popularity

What accounts for "Shrek's" popularity? We got an insight into this when we covered the making of the first "Shrek" movie at the DreamWorks studios in Los Angeles. There we met the movie's two co-directors, two seasoned-by-the-fact that they were so young.

We realized that producer Jeffrey Katzenberg had specifically tapped young directors for the movie because he wanted it to flesh out just with kids, but with teens and young adults.

That's exactly what happened. The first "Shrek" movie was big, broad, irreverent and edgy even as it told its oddly heartwarming story of a social misfit of an ogre who amazingly ends up with the beautiful Princess Fiona.

The second "Shrek" adventure was no sequel-by-the-numbers as the first film, combining its makers' hunch that they had developed a film franchise that would be embraced by viewers for a profitable number of sequels to come.

It's likely that the Steinbrenner team's dry up of ter by latest sequel, which has gotten good notices from preview audiences of the Wales. Adds more to makers' proven gift for entertaining and involving storytelling, the new movie benefits from the latest advances in animation technology, some of which was invented at the DreamWorks studios.

Royalty

On point of storytelling, the series' resident genius again has come a long way from the lonely vampire from whence he came. He's learned to feel, love, and interact with a great variety of people, and even to succeed in the rarefied heights of royalty, thanks to Princess Fiona.

This third time around, the story focuses on Shrek's fear that he won't make a good father. In "Shrek 3," our hero's family expands to

"AT WORLD'S END." Orlando Bloom stands!

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